

EXHIBIT E

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
HOUSTON DIVISION

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE)
COMMISSION,)
Plaintiff,)
vs.) Case No. 4:22-cv-3359
MAURICIO CHAVEZ,)
GIORGIO BENVENUTO, and)
CRYPTOFOX, LLC,)
Defendants.)
and)
CBT GROUP, LLC,)
Relief Defendant.)

ORAL VIDEOTAPED DEPOSITION

ORAL VIDEOTAPED DEPOSITION OF

MR. JULIO E. TAFFINDER

December 14, 2022

ORAL VIDEOTAPED DEPOSITION OF MR. JULIO E.
TAFFINDER, produced as a witness at the instance of
the Plaintiff and duly sworn, was taken in the
above-styled and numbered cause on the 14th day of
December, 2022, from 9:15 a.m. to 6:43 p.m., before
Michelle Hartman, Certified Shorthand Reporter in and
for the State of Texas and Registered Professional
Reporter, reported by computerized stenotype machine

1 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: Today's date is
2 December 14th, 2022. The time is approximately 9:15
3 a.m. We are now on the record. Beginning tape one.

4 THE COURT REPORTER: Do we want to do
5 appearances?

6 MR. GULDE: Sure. For the Securities and
7 Exchange Commission, I'm Matt Gulde.

8 MS. THEMELI: Sonila Themeli, Shook,
9 Hardy & Bacon for the Receiver, John Lewis.

10 MR. FLACK: Paul Flack for Mauricio
11 Chavez.

12 MR. PATEL: Ronak Patel for Julio
13 Taffinder.

14 MR. JULIO E. TAFFINDER,
15 having been first duly sworn, testified as follows:

16 EXAMINATION

17 Q. (BY MR. GULDE) Good morning,
18 Mr. Taffinder. As I said, my name is Matt Gulde. I
19 represent the United States Securities and Exchange
20 Commission. You're probably aware we have sued
21 Mauricio Chavez, CFX, Giorgio Benvenuto, and then as
22 a Relief Defendant, also your company CBT Group.

23 Are you aware of that?

24 A. From the package I received, yes.

25 Q. And you understand when you lifted your

1 hand there, you swore an oath to tell the truth?

2 A. Yes, sir.

3 Q. And that if you don't tell the truth
4 today, that could have civil consequences or it could
5 have criminal consequences. Do you understand that?

6 A. Of course.

7 Q. Have you ever had your deposition taken?

8 A. No, sir.

9 Q. Is there any reason that you couldn't
10 give us your full attention today?

11 A. No, no, sir.

12 Q. Okay. You're prepared to answer my
13 questions?

14 A. Of course, sir.

15 Q. Do you have any medical conditions that
16 would affect your ability to recall the events of the
17 last couple of years?

18 A. Not that I'm aware, sir.

19 Q. Okay. Are you taking any medications
20 that might affect your ability to answer my
21 questions?

22 A. No, sir.

23 Q. Will you let me know if you don't
24 understand one of the questions that I ask you?

25 A. Yes, sir.

1 Q. And you're doing a great job, I would say
2 continue speaking loudly and clearly. And will you
3 agree to, you know, use -- use words, yes, no,
4 whatever answer it is instead of just nodding or
5 shaking your head?

6 A. Okay. Understood.

7 Q. Thanks.

8 A. Uh-huh.

9 Q. One more preliminary, if you need a break
10 at any time, that's fine, just ask for it. The only
11 thing that I ask is that if there's a question
12 pending, when you need your break, go ahead and
13 answer the question, and then we will take the break,
14 okay?

15 A. Okay. Understood.

16 Q. Okay. Would you state your full name for
17 the record.

18 A. Yes, sir. My name is Julio Eduardo
19 Taffinder.

20 Q. Will you spell Eduardo.

21 A. E-D-U-A-R-D-O.

22 Q. And Taffinder is T-A-F-F-I-N-D-E-R?

23 A. Yes, sir, with double F.

24 Q. And am I pronouncing that correctly, with
25 an emphasis on the first syllable, Taffinder?

1 A. Yes, sir.

2 Q. Have you ever used any other names?

3 A. No, sir.

4 Q. Do you have any nicknames you go by?

5 A. Yes, L-A-L-O, Lalo.

6 Q. Lalo?

7 A. Yeah.

8 Q. Okay. Who calls you Lalo?

9 A. Personal family.

10 Q. Did you say "personal family"?

11 A. Yes, sir.

12 Q. Friends, too?

13 A. Some. Most call me Julio.

14 Q. Okay. What's your date of birth and
15 where were you born?

16 A. REDACTED

17 REDACTED

18 Q. REDACTED

19 A. REDACTED

20 Q. REDACTED

21 REDACTED

22 A. REDACTED

23 Q. REDACTED

24 REDACTED

25 A. REDACTED

1 Q. I am just going to go ahead and mark this
2 document as Exhibit 31 --

3 (Exhibit 31 marked)

4 Q. (BY MR. GULDE) -- and hand it to you.

5 Can you tell me what I have marked as
6 Exhibit 31?

7 A. Am I looking for a yellow sticker?

8 Q. I put a front -- a sticker on the first
9 page there that says --

10 A. Oh.

11 Q. -- Exhibit 31.

12 A. Sorry.

13 Q. That's for our purposes to identify it
14 when we're looking at this record later.

15 A. Okay.

16 Q. Can you tell me what this document is?

17 A. Oh, of course, yes, sir. It's a WhatsApp
18 chat between me and Mauricio.

19 Q. And as I read it, it -- it starts with a
20 chat entry from April 19th, 2022; is that correct?

21 A. Yes, sir.

22 Q. And the last one on here is from
23 October 8th, 2022?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. And this is a document that you provided

1 to your lawyer recently?

2 A. Yes, sir.

3 Q. Okay. As you look at it -- when you
4 provided it to your lawyer, was it in the same form
5 that it -- that it was sitting in your phone or your
6 computer?

7 A. Of course.

8 Q. Okay. Did you do anything to change it?

9 A. No, sir.

10 Q. Are there any texts between you and
11 Mauricio outside of this time frame, April to
12 October?

13 A. So there were texts before, but I had a
14 phone glitch, so these are the -- from the WhatsApp
15 chat, these are the only ones that exist.

16 Q. So am I to understand you switched your
17 phone sometime around April --

18 A. In March.

19 Q. -- 2022?

20 A. Yes, sir. But the WhatsApp chat started
21 in April.

22 Q. Did you have WhatsApp chats on the prior
23 phone?

24 A. No.

25 Q. Okay. How did you communicate with

1 Mauricio before April of 2022?

2 A. IMessage.

3 Q. IMessage on a --

4 A. iPhone.

5 Q. -- an iPhone?

6 A. Yes, sir.

7 Q. Is that just the normal text message app
8 on an iPhone?

9 A. Correct.

10 Q. Okay. And when you got your new phone,
11 did you migrate any of that data over to your -- over
12 to your new phone?

13 A. The -- the other iMessages that were
14 submitted were -- those were the ones that I was able
15 to retrieve.

16 Q. Okay. So you gathered in preparation for
17 this deposition the messages you were able to
18 retrieve?

19 A. Exactly, yes, sir.

20 Q. Okay. And what was the process you went
21 through to get your hands on those?

22 A. So on the Apple computer, you are able
23 to -- whatever is synced to the computer, you're able
24 to print out a PDF file of it, and it automatically
25 generates that.

1 Q. Okay. So between this document,
2 Exhibit 31 --

3 A. Uh-huh.

4 Q. -- and the other text messages that you
5 provided to your lawyer --

6 A. Yes, sir.

7 Q. -- that he provided to us, are there any
8 other text messages that you have between you and
9 Mauricio?

10 A. No text, just the e-mails that were
11 provided as well.

12 Q. You provided e-mails, okay.

13 A. Yes, sir.

14 Q. Are there any other records of your
15 communications other than those text messages or
16 e-mails?

17 A. Not that I recall, sir.

18 Q. Okay. So let's just start with this
19 document, Exhibit 31.

20 A. Uh-huh.

21 Q. Starting in April of 2022, had Mauricio
22 told you prior to this that he had already been
23 interviewed by the SEC in February?

24 A. I have no idea, sir.

25 Q. Okay. And I noticed down in the third

1 entry here for 4/21 at 4:22 p.m., there's Flow with
2 two emojis there. And who is that?

3 A. That's my -- so in October, I was
4 receiving a lot of calls constantly, and for security
5 reasons, I didn't know who had access to my phone, so
6 I changed the -- my name on WhatsApp to Flow, just to
7 limit the amount of calls that I was receiving.

8 Q. And is there any significance to the word
9 "Flow"?

10 A. No, sir.

11 Q. Okay. Do you know -- why did you pick
12 it?

13 A. I believe that my parents' death, like
14 everything just goes with the flow in life --

15 Q. Okay.

16 A. -- and you just have to adjust to that.

17 Q. Is there any meaning to the emojis?

18 A. Oh, no, sir. I like learning, so I'm
19 putting a little thing.

20 Q. That's a graduation cap?

21 A. Yes, sir.

22 Q. And then some stars?

23 A. Yes, sir.

24 Q. Okay. What was your name before you
25 changed it to Flow?

1 A. It was just my -- my name, Julio.

2 Q. Okay. Just your first name?

3 A. No, I had Julio Taffinder.

4 Q. Okay.

5 A. Yes, sir.

6 Q. And was it associated with your phone
7 number?

8 A. Yes, sir. It -- it's linked to the phone
9 number.

10 Q. Okay. Did changing your name to Flow
11 prevent people from being able to get in touch with
12 you?

13 A. There were some people that were calling
14 me and in a very threatening way, and so I wanted --
15 I didn't feel safe and so that's why I put that
16 there.

17 Q. So I guess my question is: If someone
18 had access to your phone number --

19 A. Uh-huh.

20 Q. -- when your I.D. was Julio Taffinder --

21 A. Uh-huh.

22 Q. -- how did changing it to Flow --

23 A. It doesn't matter.

24 Q. So they would still have access to your
25 phone number?

1 A. Of course, sir.

2 Q. But they just wouldn't necessarily know
3 from seeing Flow that it's Julio?

4 A. No, they could still see it's me, whoever
5 had my phone number.

6 Q. So I guess I'm having a hard time
7 understanding the change. Did it help?

8 A. I just did it for security reasons, sir.

9 Q. And that's my question: Did it -- did it
10 help security reasons, did you get fewer contacts
11 from unwanted people?

12 A. Yes, sir.

13 Q. Okay. Do you think that's just because
14 they didn't associate Flow with Julio?

15 A. If my number was shared -- I mean, I
16 don't know, sir, if that changes the thing if my
17 number was shared, but if for whatever reason
18 somebody new was added to a particular chat or
19 something that I was a part of, then they would see
20 Flow.

21 Q. Okay. And then you'll notice many
22 examples in here where it says "audio omitted."

23 Do you see any of those on the first
24 page?

25 A. Yes, sir.

1 Q. Can you describe to people who don't
2 necessarily use WhatsApp very often what's happening
3 there?

4 A. That's just how WhatsApp compiles when
5 you export the chat.

6 Q. Let's go even further back.

7 What is -- does WhatsApp allow people to
8 send spoken messages, too?

9 A. Yes, sir.

10 Q. Okay. And if audio -- if it says "audio
11 omitted," does that indicate that there was a spoken
12 word message?

13 A. Yes, sir.

14 Q. Okay. Does the audio of that message
15 still exist on your -- on your device?

16 A. Yes, sir.

17 Q. Okay. It just doesn't transfer to the --

18 A. It doesn't transfer.

19 Q. -- to the next page?

20 A. Exactly.

21 Q. I haven't had much time with the
22 documents, but did -- did it transfer to the files
23 that you gave your lawyer?

24 A. No, sir, it just would have -- it's what
25 is there.

1 Q. Okay. So if we wanted to hear those, we
2 would have to get our hands on your -- on one of the
3 devices that has this account?

4 A. Yeah, each -- each -- each audio message
5 would have to be individually downloaded.

6 Q. Okay. I think we're going to want to do
7 that.

8 A. Okay.

9 MR. PATEL: Sure, yeah.

10 MR. GULDE: Let me know if I need to make
11 an official request for that, but I think that's
12 probably covered under the --

13 MR. PATEL: I think it's -- I think it's
14 covered. We're just --

15 MR. GULDE: Okay.

16 MR. PATEL: -- in the interest of time
17 and getting --

18 MR. GULDE: Getting us something, I
19 appreciate it.

20 MR. PATEL: Yeah.

21 (Information to be supplied)

22 Q. (BY MR. GULDE) Okay. So let's look
23 at -- one, two, three, four -- five entries down.

24 On May 25th at 3:33, you say, "Hi,
25 Brother." Is this something you often said to

1 Mauricio?

2 A. Yes, sir.

3 Q. "Brother" is a term that you used for
4 him?

5 A. "Brother" is a term that was very common
6 amongst everyone there.

7 Q. Yeah, I've been through it, I've seen it.

8 A. Yes, sir.

9 Q. Your message to him is, "I paid out all
10 BTC payments from last week of 21K."

11 A. Uh-huh.

12 Q. Does that mean BitCoin payments?

13 A. Yes, sir.

14 Q. And then 21K is \$21,000?

15 A. Yes, sir.

16 Q. Okay. And then you say, "This week there
17 will be an additional 70K that will need to be paid
18 out."

19 Did I read that correctly?

20 A. Yes, sir.

21 Q. Is it fair to say that these kind of
22 requests are -- exist throughout your chat with
23 Mauricio?

24 A. Yes, sir.

25 Q. Almost every day?

1 A. No, sir, whenever -- at least once a
2 week, sir.

3 Q. At least once a week you're asking him
4 for BitCoin payments?

5 A. Yes, sir.

6 Q. And when you're asking him for BitCoin
7 payments, sometimes you ask for a specific number of
8 BitCoin, right?

9 A. Uh-huh.

10 Q. And then other times you ask for an
11 amount of U.S. dollars; is that right?

12 A. Translated in BitCoin.

13 Q. So help -- help me understand that.
14 If -- well, let's -- we'll wait until we get to an
15 example of that. So I'll ask a different question.

16 What were -- what were the purpose of
17 these BitCoin payments?

18 A. So the BitCoin payments were part of
19 students, they called in customer service that
20 Mauricio had to pay them back, and Mauricio would
21 then hold the BitCoin; and then he asked me, and I
22 don't recall the exact date in May, I believe it was
23 early May, if I could help out distribute the
24 payments; and so he would send me BitCoin, and then I
25 would distribute that to the students that submitted

1 me a request.

2 Q. Let's break that down, but tack on the
3 last thing you said first.

4 A. Uh-huh.

5 Q. He asked you -- you said he asked you
6 sometime in May, but this is in April, right?

7 A. I'm sorry, April, yes, sir.

8 Q. Okay. So did -- are --

9 A. No, but --

10 Q. -- do you think he asked you sometime
11 before?

12 MR. GULDE: Go ahead.

13 MR. PATEL: I think he -- just, Matt, I
14 think we are looking at May here.

15 MR. GULDE: Oh, okay. I got you. Sorry
16 about that. I was looking at the -- the very top.

17 THE WITNESS: Uh-huh.

18 Q. (BY MR. GULDE) So we're talking about a
19 May 25th, 2022 request. So do you recall that being
20 around the time he asked you to help distribute
21 BitCoin?

22 A. Yes, sir, if I recollect correctly.

23 Q. Okay. Now, you said earlier students
24 would call customer service for payment. Did I
25 understand that right?

1 A. Yes, sir.

2 Q. Was -- did CFX just have a customer
3 service phone line?

4 A. Yes, sir.

5 Q. Did they have an e-mail associated with
6 that, with customer service?

7 A. Not at their general e-mail, no, not that
8 I'm aware of.

9 Q. Okay. What was your role in connection
10 with customer service?

11 A. So customer service would gather the
12 payment requests from students, and then I would
13 simply just process them or distribute the BitCoin.

14 Q. And that's your role after Mauricio asked
15 you in May to help distribute BitCoin?

16 A. Yes, sir.

17 Q. Did you have any role with customer
18 service before May?

19 A. No, sir.

20 Q. We'll talk more about your -- your roles
21 with CFX, but just briefly, what were you doing
22 before May?

23 A. I was brought in to be a crypto teacher,
24 sir.

25 Q. And were you on salary?

1 A. He would pay me on a biweekly basis.

2 Q. How much?

3 A. 5K.

4 Q. So does that mean \$5,000 every two weeks?

5 A. Yes, sir.

6 Q. And how long were you a crypto teacher?

7 A. The entirety of the time that I was
8 there, sir.

9 Q. Okay. So you continued to be a crypto
10 teacher after you took on this additional duty?

11 A. Yes, sir.

12 Q. Did you make more money for this
13 additional duty?

14 A. No, sir.

15 Q. Did you ever ask for -- to make more
16 money because of this additional duty?

17 A. No, sir.

18 Q. Did this duty take a significant amount
19 of your time?

20 A. No, sir.

21 Q. Were you basically ping-ponging Mauricio for
22 BitCoin payments and then distributing --
23 distributing them to the people who had called for
24 payment?

25 A. Yeah, based on the data that customer

1 service gathered, yes.

2 Q. How many hours a week would you estimate
3 that you spent doing this?

4 A. Maybe two to three if Mauricio sent me
5 BitCoin.

6 Q. And you said "if -- if Mauricio sent you
7 BitCoin." What -- what do you mean by that?

8 A. Per the requests, sir, on the text
9 messages.

10 Q. So if he didn't send you the BitCoin,
11 would you spend less time on it?

12 A. Yeah, I don't have anything to do.

13 Q. Okay. And did you find yourself having
14 to remind him a lot to keep sending you the BitCoin?

15 A. Yes, sir.

16 Q. Now, let's -- let's go back and talk
17 about what -- what you said about students calling
18 customer service. Are these people who held
19 contracts with CFX?

20 A. Yes, sir.

21 Q. And did you have access to their
22 contracts?

23 A. They would submit their contract to
24 customer service and then I would see it.

25 Q. Okay. How would they submit it

1 generally?

2 A. Through text.

3 Q. And then how would you receive it?

4 A. Either through text, and then the --
5 there was -- there was also a system, I should say
6 so, a Salesforce. Salesforce was used for that, too.

7 Q. Describe the Salesforce system.

8 A. It's a customer management tool, sir.

9 Q. Okay. Software -- a piece of software?

10 A. Yes, sir.

11 Q. Okay. Does -- does a contract holder
12 with CFX know that they're interacting with
13 Salesforce?

14 A. No, sir.

15 Q. Okay. If someone who's holding a
16 contract with CFX is asking for payment, does someone
17 at CFX have to enter that request into Salesforce?

18 A. Yes, sir.

19 Q. Okay. And who would that be?

20 A. Customer service, and then there was a
21 contract filing team.

22 Q. Okay. Who were the people who worked in
23 customer service?

24 A. There was -- there was Olegario Munoz.

25 Q. Can you spell that to the best of your

1 ability.

2 A. O-L-E-G-A-R-I-O; and then Munoz,
3 M-U-N-O-Z.

4 Q. Okay. Who else?

5 A. Alejandra S-A-N-E-Z, I believe. I don't
6 know how to spell her last name. And then her -- her
7 son Raul, the same last name.

8 Q. Okay.

9 A. And then Andrea Munoz as well.

10 Q. Related to Olegario?

11 A. Yes, sir.

12 Q. How?

13 A. Niece. And then there were some -- there
14 was also another -- front end customer service people
15 that just answered general questions.

16 Q. And who were they?

17 A. Alex Lemus, and I don't know how to spell
18 their last names exactly correctly either, L-E-M-O-S
19 (sic). Jonathan, I don't remember his last name.
20 Eddie, E-D-D-I-E; Carmona C-A-R-M-O-N-A. There was
21 one more person I'm trying to recollect. There was
22 one more girl. I can't remember her name at this
23 time.

24 Q. Okay. Were all of these people that you
25 just listed people who worked at the Blalock

1 location?

2 A. Yes, sir.

3 Q. Did you have any experience with the City
4 Center location of CFX?

5 A. No, sir, not at all.

6 Q. Okay. So you -- you're telling me that
7 students would call customer service for payout and
8 you said that you would see the contracts that
9 they're talking about, right?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. And these are -- are contracts in which
12 students have invested money; is that right?

13 A. That they purchased their student
14 membership.

15 Q. Purchased a student membership.

16 So, in your words, tell me what the
17 student membership gets you at CFX.

18 A. The learning curriculum or the access to
19 the classes, and then they do get like a return on
20 their purchase of 15 percent a month.

21 Q. Okay. So if I invested \$5,000 as a
22 student member of CFX, I would have access to
23 classes?

24 A. Yes, sir.

25 Q. And they would be in person at Blalock?

1 A. Both in person and -- and streamed.

2 Q. Okay. Streamed on Zoom?

3 A. Yes, sir.

4 Q. And you taught these classes?

5 A. I was one of the teachers, sir.

6 Q. Okay. How many total teachers were
7 there?

8 A. There was me. Eddie was also a teacher.
9 There was another teacher called -- his name is Juan
10 Puac. There was another guy that worked at CFX. His
11 name was Marco, and I believe he also taught
12 technical fundamentals; and then there were previous
13 teachers before me, sir.

14 Q. Okay. And then aside from the classes,
15 tell me about the -- what I can expect with my \$5,000
16 payment as a CFX Academy member.

17 A. They would payout on a three-month basis,
18 sir.

19 Q. And what would they pay out?

20 A. The 15 percent that was incurred.

21 Q. Okay. Compounded monthly?

22 A. Yes, sir, it was on a monthly basis.

23 Q. Okay. So if I invest my \$5,000, after
24 one month, I would have earned 15 percent on that
25 5,000; is that right?

1 A. Yes, sir.

2 Q. But I don't have access to it until month
3 three?

4 A. Yes, sir.

5 Q. Okay. And that's -- that's something
6 that people typically agreed to in the contract?

7 A. Yes, sir.

8 Q. Okay. And then after month two, now I
9 have 15 percent of that \$5,000, plus the 15 percent
10 that I earned in the first month?

11 A. Oh, no, sir.

12 Q. Oh, okay. So how does the math work?

13 A. 15 from the five.

14 Q. Okay. So month one, 5,000 times
15 15 percent; month two, 5,000 times 15 percent; and
16 the same for month three?

17 A. Yes, sir.

18 Q. Okay. And then at month three, if I have
19 chosen the three-month option, can I pull my money
20 out?

21 A. Yes, sir.

22 Q. Okay. And I could choose to have that
23 paid in BitCoin?

24 A. Yes, sir.

25 Q. Okay. How would I tell people that I

1 want it in BitCoin?

2 A. You call the customer service line, sir.

3 Q. Okay. And that's when it would come to
4 you?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Okay. Was there anybody else that you
7 know of who was involved in getting the BitCoin to
8 the student investors?

9 A. No, sir.

10 Q. Okay. Just you?

11 A. From what Mauricio had to give to me,
12 sir.

13 Q. Okay. You're unaware of Mauricio giving
14 BitCoin to anybody else to get them to cust -- to get
15 it to customers?

16 A. Yes, sir. He used to do it directly
17 himself.

18 Q. Okay. Who handled the BitCoin at CFX
19 other than you and Mauricio?

20 A. Just Mauricio.

21 Q. Okay. So when -- when student investors
22 made a request to be paid in BitCoin, would -- would
23 they give you a wallet that BitCoin could be
24 transferred to?

25 A. They would give customer service a

1 wallet, sir.

2 Q. Okay. And that information came to you
3 in your role helping Mauricio?

4 A. Yes, if he asked me to.

5 Q. With that information about the wallet,
6 once Mauricio gave you access to the BitCoin, would
7 you be able to conclude that transaction?

8 A. Once he sent the BitCoin from the main --
9 his wallet to just the temporary wallet that was
10 used, which when we had the BitCoin that he sent
11 over, then that wallet, which is I guess you could
12 call it a child wallet, would just send it to the
13 adequate student.

14 Q. Help me understand those terms as
15 somebody who's -- who's not too hip with -- with
16 crypto terms. Did you call it a "child wallet"?

17 A. I'm making up that term just to kind of
18 help illustrate the -- the process, sir.

19 Q. Okay.

20 A. Mauricio was the owner of that, if you
21 will, and so I don't -- I did not have access to
22 BitCoin other than what he authorized to send me; and
23 so then that will get distributed to the student.

24 Q. So when we look at the entry on 5/23 on
25 Exhibit 31 --

1 A. Uh-huh.

2 Q. -- can you explain what that string of
3 characters and numbers is?

4 A. That's a BitCoin wallet, sir.

5 Q. And whose BitCoin wallet is that?

6 A. That's the child's wallet, the one that
7 was created temporarily to distribute back to the
8 student.

9 Q. Who created that?

10 A. That was one that I created that was --
11 it doesn't hold anything other than what Mauricio
12 sends.

13 Q. Okay. So if there was ever any BitCoin
14 going through this wallet ending in PGR --

15 A. Uh-huh.

16 Q. -- that came from Mauricio Chavez --

17 A. Yes, sir.

18 Q. -- at your request?

19 A. From the student's request, sir.

20 Q. But the student request didn't go
21 straight to Mauricio; is that right?

22 A. No, sir.

23 Q. They came through you to Mauricio?

24 A. Through the customer service, and then
25 based on what the customer service info was gathered,

1 then that amount is specifically stated in the
2 messages.

3 Q. Okay. Now, let's go down to the very
4 bottom entry on that first page of Exhibit 31.

5 A. Uh-huh.

6 Q. Do you see where it says, "Hi, Brother,
7 good morning. For the BitCoin payment, can you send
8 me two Bits to continue to pay out folks? We have
9 about 30 plus people awaiting payments."

10 A. Yes, sir.

11 Q. And this is 30 plus people awaiting
12 payments who have asked to be paid in BitCoin on CFX
13 contracts; is that right?

14 A. Correct, sir.

15 Q. Now, when you were talking earlier about
16 what being a student investor/contract holder at CFX
17 entitled you to, you talked about the classes, you
18 talked about the payments; is that right?

19 A. Yes, sir.

20 Q. Does it entitle you to anything else?

21 A. I mean, if the -- there was an event
22 held, then they could go to the event, but just
23 mainly the classes and the streams.

24 Q. Now, at some point, you know, people
25 started learning about this lawsuit, right?

1 A. I mean, after October when everything was
2 published.

3 Q. Okay. And you were aware of
4 conversations happening in the CFX community about --
5 about what would happen with CFX?

6 A. Previous to October?

7 Q. I'm asking you after people learned about
8 our lawsuit.

9 A. After October, everything that was
10 published, that's when everybody found out.

11 Q. Okay. And were people discussing, you
12 know, what might happen with CFX?

13 A. The -- you can see the conversations on
14 the -- one of the WhatsApp chats that was provided,
15 sir.

16 Q. And I'm just asking about your personal
17 knowledge. Are you aware of the chatter coming from
18 the CFX student investor community?

19 A. Based on what's in the chat, sir, in the
20 English chat that was provided.

21 Q. Your chat was the only access you had to
22 CFX investors?

23 A. There was other chats, sir.

24 Q. Okay.

25 A. There were -- I don't even know how many.

1 Q. In general, were people more concerned
2 about the classes continuing or the money getting
3 paid back?

4 A. Some people were concerned about the --
5 the classes, and then some people obviously wanted
6 their -- their money back.

7 Q. Can you -- can you say what people were
8 more concerned about?

9 A. I mean, after this was published, it is
10 evident that people wanted their -- their student
11 membership back.

12 Q. And what do you mean by "student
13 membership"?

14 A. So whatever they purchased, so like the
15 5,000, they wanted it back.

16 Q. They wanted their money back?

17 A. Yes, sir.

18 Q. Okay. Looking at that last entry, just
19 to help me understand the way you would talk to
20 Mauricio, you're asking him for a specific number of
21 BitCoin here, right?

22 A. Yes, sir.

23 Q. And BitCoin -- at this time in early June
24 of 2022, was a BitCoin worth about \$30,000?

25 A. I don't remember, sir.

1 Q. Okay. But is it fair to say that the
2 price of BitCoin in relation to U.S. dollars would
3 fluctuate over time?

4 A. Yes, sir.

5 Q. Okay. And so when you're asking him for
6 two BitCoin on July 2nd, is it fair to say that you
7 knew how many U.S. dollars that represented?

8 A. Yes, sir, based on the day.

9 Q. Based on the daily price of --

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. -- BitCoin?

12 A. Yes, sir.

13 Q. Okay. And you had probably done the
14 calculation to know that whatever number of dollars
15 that two BitCoin represented, that would be enough to
16 make the payments that you needed to make?

17 A. Exactly, sir.

18 Q. And you know, if BitCoin dropped in, you
19 know, U.S. dollar price over the next month, as it
20 did, you would make that adjustment in your head if
21 you're asking for a specific number of BitCoin?

22 A. If I was asking on a different date?

23 Q. Yes.

24 A. Yes, sir.

25 Q. Let's turn to the next page. And just

1 for reference as we work through this document,
2 there's a number on the lower right side we'll call a
3 Bates number, and I'll just say this one is 157.

4 MR. PATEL: (Indicates.)

5 THE WITNESS: Oh, perfect. Thank you,
6 sir.

7 Q. (BY MR. GULDE) So when I direct you to
8 certain pages, I will use that number, okay?

9 A. Uh-huh.

10 Q. And so looking five entries down,
11 Mauricio is responding to you and he's saying "Hey,
12 Bro, I sent you, \$40,000 for BitCoin payment."

13 Do you see that?

14 A. Yes, sir.

15 Q. Now, he says "\$40,000," he doesn't say
16 "two BitCoin"?

17 A. Uh-huh.

18 Q. So what did he do there?

19 A. I mean, we would have to look at the
20 price of the date, and I don't remember how much it
21 is; but he's basically just telling me that he's
22 sending BitCoin, but instead of translating it to
23 BitCoin, he just translated it to dollars.

24 Q. This would be some -- if he had literally
25 sent you \$40,000' worth of BitCoin, that would be,

1 you know, presumably 1. some string of decimals in
2 BitCoin, right?

3 A. If you make the conversion on that date,
4 then it would be whatever the conversion is.

5 Q. Now, assuming it was 30-something,
6 assuming that one BitCoin is worth \$30,000 --

7 A. Uh-huh.

8 Q. -- so would it be -- would it have been
9 standard for you to receive some decimal amount of
10 BitCoin from Mauricio?

11 A. Yes, sir.

12 Q. And would you -- like, could you trust
13 his statement here of \$40,000 -- that -- that he sent
14 you \$40,000 worth of BitCoin?

15 A. Yes, sir, it's all knowledge in the -- on
16 the blockchain.

17 Q. I guess what I'm asking is: How loose is
18 he with language, is he estimating here, or would you
19 find him to speak pretty precisely?

20 A. He would speak precisely.

21 Q. Okay. So if he says, "I sent you
22 40,000," you would go check, and sure enough, there's
23 \$40,000 worth of BitCoin?

24 A. Sure.

25 Q. And that was the case throughout your

1 interaction with him?

2 A. Yes, sir.

3 Q. Okay. Now, in the next line, you thank
4 him and you note that you received them and then say
5 you'll be sending out the urgent payments now.

6 Do you see that?

7 A. Yes, sir.

8 Q. Now, what would make any payment more or
9 less urgent?

10 A. Depending on the date the request was
11 received, sir.

12 Q. And does that have any relation to the --
13 the payout date that's on the contract?

14 A. Yes, it could. So if a contract was very
15 past due and they have been calling for a while and
16 it hasn't been taken care of because there was no
17 BitCoin to get paid out, then that's urgent, right?

18 Q. Okay. That makes sense from a customer
19 service perspective --

20 A. Yeah.

21 Q. -- to handle the people who have been
22 barking the longest, right?

23 A. (Nods).

24 Q. So you said something about there --
25 there not being enough BitCoin. What do you mean by

1 that?

2 A. Again, sir, I don't control the BitCoin
3 that's available. So if there is more requests, then
4 I can only make the request and just sit there until
5 it's received.

6 Q. So when you said, you know, "there's not
7 enough BitCoin available," you're talking about
8 Mauricio has not sent over the BitCoin yet?

9 A. Precisely.

10 Q. Okay. So we'll keep -- keep going to the
11 next line. There's a request in Spanish -- or a
12 statement in Spanish from Mauricio. Could you
13 translate that for us?

14 A. Which line, sir?

15 Q. 6/3 at 3:20.

16 A. Oh, that is a forwarded message, sir,
17 from -- that he received directly. So it's saying,
18 "Good afternoon, my name is Abraham Benitez. I am
19 calling because I have not received a \$6,522 from
20 April 20th. Please, you know, I'm looking for
21 assistance."

22 Q. Now, do you know why Mauricio would have
23 received this request outside of the customer service
24 procedure that you outlined for us?

25 A. A lot of people had his personal number,

1 sir.

2 Q. Is this something that would have
3 surprised you that somebody reached out like this to
4 Mauricio?

5 A. No, sir.

6 Q. Okay. And a couple of lines down, he
7 asks, "Do you have this one for payment?" Do you
8 think that means Abraham Benitez?

9 A. That means has he called customer service
10 and has it been tracked appropriately.

11 Q. Okay. Got you. So when he says, "Do you
12 have this one for payment," he's effectively asking,
13 is he in the system, in the line getting ready for
14 payout; is that right?

15 A. Correct, sir.

16 Q. Okay. And you tell him you'll check,
17 right?

18 A. Uh-huh.

19 Q. And then you tell Mauricio that you found
20 Mr. Benitez and that you can pay him in a short bit;
21 is that right?

22 A. Yes, sir.

23 Q. And you tell Mauricio effectively, "After
24 I pay Mr. Benitez, I will only have \$2,000 of BitCoin
25 left;" is that right?

1 A. Yes, sir.

2 Q. And just to make sure I understand the
3 jargon, you're saying, "I will only have \$2,000
4 United States dollars' worth of BitCoin left;" is
5 that right?

6 A. That's correct, sir.

7 Q. And you're asking Mauricio to send you
8 some more to keep paying other people, right?

9 A. Correct.

10 Q. Okay. Now, down at the bottom of this
11 page, three from the bottom, there's a comment from
12 you that says, "We have these remaining now for the
13 month of April. I have paid out the above but will
14 need another 44,000 to complete the rest."

15 Do you see that?

16 A. Yes, sir.

17 Q. So, I mean, it's June 3rd when you're
18 sending this. Is it -- is it common for there to
19 be -- was it common for there to be unpaid requests
20 from April and June?

21 A. So customers would call from any time
22 period. Some customers wouldn't call for months, and
23 then that would have to be backtracked. So whatever
24 customers were needed to be backtracked from April,
25 that's what this is explaining.

1 250 each?

2 A. That was guidance, sir.

3 Q. Guidance from Mauricio?

4 A. Yes, sir.

5 Q. Okay. Who decided that VIP tickets would
6 be \$500?

7 A. That was discussed with him as well.

8 Q. With Mauricio?

9 A. Yes, sir.

10 Q. And who had the final say on gala
11 planning?

12 A. Mauricio, sir.

13 Q. Okay. If -- if you wanted to include a
14 key chain in the swag bag, would you have asked
15 Mauricio?

16 A. No, sir, just -- that was -- that came
17 through the -- the team, from like Carlos, Henry, and
18 I, sir.

19 Q. Okay. So the team decided what's in the
20 swag back?

21 A. Yes, sir.

22 Q. Anything else that you guys had
23 discretion in terms of the gala?

24 A. On the larger aspect, for example, we
25 brought in a motivational speaker. His name was

1 Ruben Gonzalez. He was an Olympian. And those --
2 those things were covered with Mauricio, sir.

3 Q. You guys found him but Mauricio okayed
4 it?

5 A. Yes, sir.

6 Q. What was Ruben Gonzalez's event in the
7 Olympics, do you remember?

8 A. What did he do?

9 Q. Yeah.

10 A. Oh, he did the -- where you -- the ice --

11 Q. Luge?

12 A. Is it a luge? I don't know he --

13 Q. Like a one-man bobsled?

14 A. Yeah, yeah. And he was a gold medalist.

15 Q. And so what was his fee?

16 A. \$5,000, if I recall correctly, sir.

17 Q. What was the total gala cost?

18 A. I don't recall, sir.

19 Q. You don't remember what your budget was?

20 A. No, sir.

21 Q. Do you know how many people attended?

22 A. Yes, sir. There was supposed to be only
23 300 tickets sold, but people swapped their -- there
24 was a lanyard that was used as a ticket and people
25 were swapping it in and out and bringing additional

1 people in, and it turned -- I don't know, there was
2 probably way over 300, maybe 400, maybe more.

3 Q. What day was this?

4 A. August 19th.

5 Q. Of 2022?

6 A. 2022, yes, sir.

7 Q. And Royal Sonesta's in Houston?

8 A. Yes, sir.

9 Q. How long did this event last?

10 A. It was a three-hour conference, which
11 included the motivational speaker; it also included
12 the panel from 79 Protons; and then it included
13 Mauricio speaking to the audience; and then there was
14 cocktail happy hour socializing afterwards.

15 Q. Who was on the 79 Proton's panel?

16 A. The CEO and the --

17 Q. Did you say CEO?

18 A. Yeah, the CEO -- and his partner, and
19 they brought in a speaker on their behalf as well,
20 sir.

21 Q. What are -- what is the name of the CEO
22 of 79 Proton?

23 A. Marvin Bunnell. B-U I believe it's
24 N-N-E-L-L.

25 Q. And his partner?

1 A. Yes, Sergio Aleman.

2 Q. A-L-L-E-M-A-N?

3 A. B-U-N-N-E-L-L, Bunnell.

4 Q. That's Marvin?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. And then Sergio's last name?

7 A. Aleman, A-L-M-E-A-N (sic), yes. Like
8 Germany in Spanish.

9 Q. And then a third person, who was that by
10 name?

11 A. I don't recall his name, sir.

12 Q. Okay. But he was a motivational speaker
13 as well?

14 A. You could say he was a motivational
15 speaker.

16 Q. Why -- why could you say he was a
17 motivational speaker?

18 A. Because he was very hyped and making
19 jokes.

20 Q. He's a rah-rah guy?

21 A. I don't understand, sir.

22 Q. Somebody who's going to hype the crowd
23 up?

24 A. Oh, yes, sir.

25 Q. Other than the 79 Proton's panel and

1 Mauricio speaking, what else happened at the gala?

2 A. The Argentinian Olympian, sir.

3 Q. Okay. And that's Ruben Gonzalez?

4 A. Yes, sir.

5 Q. And then other than that?

6 A. Just the cocktail happy hour networking
7 event.

8 Q. Was there a meal served?

9 A. Yeah, there was -- I don't know what
10 they're called. When they pass around and they have
11 trays and people pick from them.

12 Q. Hors d'oeuvres?

13 A. Yes, sir.

14 Q. Okay. Did you -- did the planning
15 committee pick the hors d'oeuvres or did Mauricio?

16 A. No, the planning committee, sir.

17 Q. Did Mauricio get to veto any
18 hors d'oeuvre picks?

19 A. No, sir.

20 Q. All right.

21 A. It was based on what availability they
22 had, sir, at the hotel.

23 Q. Did you speak at this event?

24 A. Just an introduction, sir. Carlos and I
25 spoke in the introduction.

1 Q. And what -- what did you say?

2 A. I was the greeter, sir.

3 Q. What did you say?

4 A. So we thanked everybody for coming in.

5 We told them we had a special night, and we hinted

6 that we were going to be presenting someone in the

7 crypto space, sir.

8 Q. That you were going to be presenting

9 someone in the crypto space --

10 A. Yes, sir.

11 Q. -- is that what you said?

12 A. 79 Protons, sir.

13 Q. Oh, okay.

14 A. Yes, sir.

15 Q. And what was the gist of the 79 Proton's

16 package?

17 A. They were presenting their NFT, sir.

18 Q. And can you -- can you tell us what they

19 presented about their NFT?

20 A. So they were presenting the first

21 gold-backed NFT and how they were associated with a

22 gold -- I am trying to look for the right word --

23 producer, so someone that produced gold from scratch

24 or a process.

25 Q. They mine it from the ground?

1 A. Yes, sir, mining. There we go.

2 Q. Okay. And --

3 A. And --

4 Q. -- and you say they were associated with
5 a mining operation?

6 A. Yes, sir.

7 Q. And what's the name of that mining
8 operation?

9 A. I don't recall, sir.

10 Q. Okay. So they're the first gold-backed
11 NFT, they're associated with a mining operation, and
12 what else?

13 A. And their plan to build a Metaverse,
14 which included a gold castle in a virtual world.

15 Q. And what does that mean to the laymen
16 that a gold castle is coming to the virtual world?

17 A. So just like the Oculus Quest where you
18 put your goggles and you see a hole in a virtual
19 reality or a virtual world that it is part of the
20 Metaverse, which is part of the Web3, which is just
21 an entire world that you submerge into virtually.

22 Q. And among the three to 400 people who are
23 attending here, do you know how many were CFX
24 contract holders?

25 A. All of them, sir.

1 Q. Everybody in that room is a CFX contract
2 holder?

3 A. Except the invitees.

4 Q. Okay. Were there any people giving
5 testimonies about how much they had made with CFX?

6 A. No, sir.

7 Q. Were you at events where such testimonies
8 were given?

9 A. There were -- I was invited to Chicago
10 events where that would occur, sir.

11 Q. And what would people giving their
12 testimonies at events like the Chicago events say?

13 A. Basically that CFX changed their life.

14 Q. How?

15 A. Because they were able to quit their jobs
16 or they were able to pay for their medical bills.
17 There was one lady who had a daughter who had cancer
18 and there was a donation for her.

19 Q. There was a donation from CFX outside of
20 her contract?

21 A. No, as in like a community, like
22 fundraising.

23 MR. PATEL: Matt, just --

24 MR. GULDE: Feel free.

25 MR. PATEL: Just Matt's question was

1 about people talking about their experience with CFX
2 and how it made them money. Is that separate than
3 this donation piece?

4 THE WITNESS: Oh, 100 percent separate,
5 sir, yeah.

6 Q. (BY MR. GULDE) I'm curious about the
7 donation piece, too. How -- how do you know -- if
8 you know, how -- how did the CFX community of
9 investor -- investors learn about this woman's
10 medical issue?

11 A. Whoever the -- coordinated the Chicago
12 event were the ones that presented her story, sir,
13 and ask if anybody wanted to donate.

14 Q. Were you there in person when this story
15 was presented?

16 A. Yes, sir.

17 Q. And did you observe people donating?

18 A. No, sir.

19 Q. Okay. Do you know what form they donated
20 money in?

21 A. No, sir.

22 Q. Do you know if they donated money?

23 A. No, sir.

24 Q. Okay. Did you ever hear from this woman
25 again?

1 A. No, sir.

2 Q. Did you ever hear anybody talking about
3 this woman again?

4 A. No, sir.

5 Q. But what I'm -- what I'm hearing from you
6 is that it would not be uncommon for people to stand
7 up at the Chicago events and give testimony about how
8 the payments from CFX changed their life?

9 A. Correct, sir.

10 Q. Would people in the crowd at these events
11 be prospective CFX contract holders?

12 A. I'm not sure, sir.

13 Q. Do you know who was in the crowd at these
14 events?

15 A. No, sir.

16 Q. Do you know who set up these events?

17 A. No, sir. I know who invited me.

18 Q. Who invited you?

19 A. Ismael Sanchez.

20 Q. How many of these events did you attend?

21 A. I attended one in April. They were
22 typically held at the end of the month. I attended
23 one in May, I believe, and then I attended one in
24 September.

25 Q. Do you think those three are the only

1 time you ever attended a Chicago event for CFX?

2 A. I can't remember if I attended in August
3 or not.

4 Q. Let's keep going from Exhibit 31. Turn
5 to page 164. A little less than halfway down the
6 page, you're asking Mauricio, "Are you still good for
7 me to meet with Eric about Salesforce?"

8 A. Oh, yes, sir.

9 Q. Who's Eric?

10 A. That is his brother-in-law.

11 Q. What is Eric's full name?

12 A. I believe it's Gonzalez.

13 Q. And you believe that Eric is Mauricio's
14 brother-in-law?

15 A. Yes, sir.

16 Q. Because he's married to Mauricio's
17 sister?

18 A. Yes, sir.

19 Q. And what's Mauricio's sister's name?

20 A. I don't know. Actually, first name
21 Carla.

22 Q. Did Eric work at Blalock?

23 A. No, sir.

24 Q. Okay. What would you meet with Eric
25 about Salesforce for?

1 A. So Mauricio asked me to -- Eric was
2 building a new Salesforce system, sir, and Mauricio
3 asked me to see why it was taking so long to build.

4 Q. Is Eric a computer programmer?

5 A. Yes, sir.

6 Q. And help me understand. Salesforce is a
7 proprietary software package, right?

8 A. It can be customized, sir.

9 Q. Okay. Was Eric customizing Salesforce
10 for use by CFX?

11 A. Yes. He was developing the Salesforce
12 system --

13 Q. Okay.

14 A. -- based on Mauricio's ask.

15 Q. Okay. And why were you meeting with
16 Eric?

17 A. Because Mauricio asked me to, sir.

18 Q. What -- what did Mauricio ask you to do
19 with Eric in Salesforce?

20 A. By the time he asked me for this, he said
21 that he had been doing it for a long time and that he
22 was wondering why.

23 Q. Okay. So he's asking you to give Eric a
24 kick in the pants?

25 A. He's asking me to see why -- what's

1 the -- what's the progress behind it.

2 Q. Okay. Are you -- do you have computer
3 programming background?

4 A. I have an information systems background.

5 Q. Okay. Do you feel qualified to
6 understand what amount of progress Eric has made and
7 what might be taking him so long?

8 A. Yes, sir.

9 Q. Okay. And you told Mauricio that?

10 A. Yes, sir. He did not understand.

11 Q. Mauricio did not understand?

12 A. (Shakes head).

13 Q. Did Mauricio understand computer programs
14 in general?

15 A. I don't think so.

16 MR. PATEL: When you get to a good spot.

17 MR. GULDE: We're at a good spot. Yeah,
18 we can take a break.

19 Let's go off the record.

20 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: Off the record at
21 10:29 a.m. Ending tape one.

22 (Recess taken)

23 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: Back on the record
24 10:41 a.m. Beginning tape two.

25 Q. (BY MR. GULDE) Mr. Taffinder, we were

1 just talking about Eric Gonzalez's efforts with
2 Salesforce. Do you remember that?

3 A. Yes, sir.

4 Q. Did you end up meeting with Eric?

5 A. I did, sir.

6 Q. And what came of that meeting or any
7 meetings that followed?

8 A. He was very confused on the guidance that
9 he was given from Mauricio.

10 Q. Okay. What was he confused about if you
11 can remember?

12 A. The system. There seemed to be
13 conflicting information that was told to him on
14 different occasions and so he had to redevelop things
15 a few times.

16 Q. Do you remember, like, what the
17 conflicting information was?

18 A. The automation and the -- what fields
19 should be present on the system, like what
20 information should be present on the system.

21 Q. And when you say "fields," you mean
22 spaces for information to be input, correct?

23 A. Correct.

24 Q. Okay. And Mauricio had feelings about
25 that and had communicated them to Eric?

1 Q. And so that -- that would be the date
2 that the student investor called CFX customer
3 service?

4 A. Yes, sir.

5 Q. Okay. And the next column is a BitCoin
6 amount?

7 A. Yeah, translated in dollars.

8 Q. Okay. And so if we used the dollars
9 there, we don't have to worry about any -- any daily
10 conversion to BitCoin. That's just the amount of
11 U.S. dollars that these people are expecting?

12 A. No. You have to convert it to BitCoin on
13 that date.

14 Q. On the date of payment?

15 A. Yes, sir.

16 Q. On whatever date that Mauricio gets you
17 the BitCoin and you're able to turn it around and
18 send it to the investors --

19 A. Yes, sir.

20 Q. -- that's when you would do the
21 conversion?

22 For example, on this first one you would
23 say, okay, what -- how many BitCoin's \$4,500?

24 A. Yes, sir.

25 Q. And you would send that amount to

1 Ms. Ordonez?

2 A. Yes, sir.

3 Q. To the -- and that's her telephone number
4 in the next one?

5 A. Yes, sir.

6 Q. And then the next one is the wallet that
7 belongs to the investor?

8 A. Yes, sir.

9 Q. Okay. So you would get the BitCoin from
10 Mauricio and convert 4,500 of U.S. dollars to BitCoin
11 on whatever day the payment's going to be made, and
12 you would send it from your wallet that we have
13 discussed to the wallets in the wallet column here;
14 is that right?

15 A. Yes, sir.

16 Q. And then "ciudad," what is that?

17 A. Where they're calling from.

18 Q. Does that have anything to do with where
19 their contract was executed?

20 A. It could be, but it's typically where
21 they're from.

22 Q. Is it where they reside when they're
23 asking for payment?

24 A. Yes, sir.

25 Q. Okay. Is that information that customer

1 service would collect when the call came in?

2 A. That was -- yes, sir, it was collected
3 from -- from customer service.

4 Q. And a lot of these are empty, as you'll
5 notice on the September page. So was it important
6 information?

7 A. No. It was just -- if I recall
8 correctly, it was in the previous template, sir. So
9 it was just kept.

10 Q. And then the next column says -- it says
11 "false," but then it's populated by a bunch of falses
12 and a few truths. So what is that?

13 A. So upon download, I think there must have
14 been a glitch, but there should be a checkmark
15 that -- there that represents paid. So if you would
16 see "true," then it should -- it should have a
17 checkmark and which would have resembled that it's
18 been paid.

19 Q. Okay. So we'll -- we'll confirm and do
20 some -- and do some talking about that logistically
21 to make sure we understand.

22 But -- but as you're -- as you're looking
23 at this right now, you think that column that's
24 currently labeled "false" is the "paid yes or no"
25 column?

1 A. Yes, exactly.

2 Q. Okay.

3 A. So in programming, a check represents a
4 true and a no represents a false.

5 Q. Okay. So the ones we're seeing as
6 "true," you believe that those represent people who
7 have been paid?

8 A. Correct, yes, sir.

9 Q. Okay. And the next column, please
10 translate that for us.

11 A. Date of payment.

12 Q. Okay. Now, the first column also says
13 "date of payment," but you understand that to --

14 A. Oh, the second one is like when it
15 actually was paid.

16 Q. Yeah, okay.

17 A. Yeah.

18 Q. And when I said the "first column," it
19 was first until I scrolled over. It's actually
20 the -- column C is another date of payment, but
21 that's the day that their contract payment became
22 due, and then you're telling me that the dates that
23 reside in column J are the dates that money was
24 actually paid to these student investors?

25 A. Yes, sir.

1 Q. Okay. So if a -- if it's blank, is that
2 typically associated with -- with a "false" or a "no"
3 check?

4 A. It either means that it hasn't been fully
5 paid out or that -- yeah, that it hasn't been paid
6 out.

7 Q. Okay. And would customer service fill in
8 the checkmarks and the dates of payment?

9 A. They would help, yes, sir. Some I would
10 fill out myself whenever I -- I did the tento (ph)
11 transaction, and for all the transactions that were
12 finalized, there is a transaction I.D. that should be
13 present on the left.

14 Q. Yeah, is that column L?

15 A. Yes, sir.

16 Q. Okay. And is that a feature of BitCoin
17 transactions such that any payment of BitCoin is
18 assigned an identification?

19 A. That's like a receipt from the
20 blockchain, yes.

21 Q. Okay. So using that I.D. -- transaction
22 I.D., you could find it on the -- on the blockchain?

23 A. Yes, sir. It's public information.

24 Q. Okay. Is that the easiest way to find it
25 on the blockchain is to have that I.D.?

1 A. Yes, sir.

2 Q. Are there other ways?

3 A. I don't think so, sir.

4 MR. PATEL: Can you pull up history --
5 can you pull up history by an address?

6 THE WITNESS: You can -- if you have the
7 BitCoin address, you can pull up the history, too.

8 Q. (BY MR. GULDE) And you see every single
9 transaction that had been made into or out of a
10 specific wallet?

11 A. Yes, sir.

12 Q. And so that would include these -- this
13 information that we're seeing in column L, but just
14 all -- all such transactions --

15 A. Yes, sir --

16 Q. -- in a wallet?

17 A. -- it should all be there.

18 Q. Okay.

19 A. Yeah, that's correct.

20 Q. Okay. Where did this spreadsheet in
21 Exhibit 32 reside in the CFX system?

22 A. Google Drive, sir.

23 Q. Google Drive?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Okay. And whose Google account was that

1 associated with?

2 A. The entire customer service team and
3 obviously my e-mail, sir; and the accounting team
4 also had access to it, sir.

5 Q. Okay. Does it still exist?

6 A. Yes, sir.

7 Q. Have you seen it recently?

8 A. This is the copy, sir.

9 Q. You pulled this straight off of the
10 Google Drive?

11 A. Yes, sir.

12 MR. PATEL: Just so the record's clear,
13 is it a Google Drive or is this a Google document
14 that people have access to?

15 THE WITNESS: Oh, I'm sorry, it is a
16 Google sheet.

17 Q. (BY MR. GULDE) Okay. As I understand
18 the -- when I think of Google Drive, I'm thinking
19 of -- I'm thinking of Google's umbrella that they put
20 over sheets and docs and whatever other apps that
21 Google offers. Is that consistent with what you
22 think of?

23 A. That is the same -- yeah, I am in line
24 with the Google Sheet.

25 Q. Okay. What day was it that you logged in

1 and pulled this off?

2 A. It's Wednesday. So Monday?

3 MR. GULDE: Can we go off the record for
4 just a second?

5 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: Off the record at
6 11:19 a.m.

7 (Recess taken)

8 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: Back on the record,
9 11:24 a.m. Beginning tape three.

10 Q. (BY MR. GULDE) So as to this spreadsheet
11 in Exhibit 23, if we're looking at September 2002
12 (sic), there are a lot more that haven't been paid
13 than have been paid, right?

14 A. I'm sorry, where are we at, sir?

15 Q. If we're looking at the September tab on
16 Exhibit 32 --

17 A. Uh-huh.

18 Q. -- there are a lot more that have not
19 been paid than have been paid.

20 A. In September, yes, sir, whatever is on
21 the sheet --

22 Q. Okay.

23 A. -- is accurate.

24 Q. And is that the case because they just
25 haven't become -- the passage of time has not become

1 urgent enough to -- to get the BitCoin from Mauricio?

2 A. It's whatever Mauricio wanted to provide
3 with -- to me, it's whatever could be paid out.

4 Q. So if we're looking at the first green
5 row, that shows a date that was owing -- or an amount
6 that was owing on the 7th of September; is that
7 right?

8 A. Uh-huh.

9 Q. 2700 bucks, and you have the wallet
10 information, and they have called customer service on
11 the day before it was -- it was in.

12 Do you know if you would have, before the
13 end of all things at CFX, spoken with Mauricio about
14 getting this one paid?

15 A. I'm sorry, sir, can you repeat that
16 again?

17 Q. Do you know if you would have spoken with
18 Mauricio about getting Jane Abril (ph) and Josinia
19 Van (ph) paid via BitCoin?

20 A. If it's in -- wait, what date,
21 September -- September 7th? If it's on the text
22 message, then that was my request; and if it doesn't
23 say "paid" there, then at the time I did not have any
24 funds to pay it.

25 Q. But we wouldn't necessarily see those

1 names or any contract number in the text message,
2 right?

3 A. No, sir. No, there is -- there's a
4 document that is mentioned here that shows the
5 request amount that I would send him, and I needed
6 for him to see it so he could see the urgency.

7 Q. And did that document reside in Google
8 Drive?

9 A. Yeah, you guys can now have access to it.

10 Q. And it is still there as far as you know?

11 A. Yeah, everything should still be there.

12 Q. Is that a running document that was
13 altered as you go or would there be a September
14 version of that document?

15 A. There should be different iterations of
16 the document based on the dates of that document.

17 Q. Okay. Do you know anything about the
18 color codes on the rows here?

19 A. Oh, that was customer service, sir.

20 Q. Did they say anything to you?

21 A. Those were the ones they would highlight
22 that would call very often, sir.

23 Q. Okay. Which --

24 A. They're --

25 Q. Do you know which color indicated more

1 urgency?

2 A. There is no -- there's -- there's not a
3 color system, sir. It was just they highlighted
4 them --

5 Q. Oh, okay.

6 A. -- different colors.

7 Q. Okay. So if you see color on one of
8 these, you can assume that's someone that customer
9 service gets calls from?

10 A. Yes, sir.

11 Q. Okay. All right. Let's -- let's move on
12 and go back to Exhibit 31.

13 MR. PATEL: Before you do, there -- I
14 just wanted to point something out.

15 MR. GULDE: Sure.

16 MR. PATEL: Looking at the first column
17 in the name, there is reference to a name and a
18 number three.

19 THE WITNESS: Uh-huh.

20 MR. PATEL: We see that in sort of
21 various instances. What does that reflect to your
22 understanding?

23 THE WITNESS: Students had different
24 accounts there, sir.

25 Q. (BY MR. GULDE) Appreciate that. Let's go

1 to page 168 of Exhibit 31. Do you see about a little
2 less than halfway down there's a message from you to
3 Mauricio saying, "Hi, Brother. Eduardo from L.A.
4 told me they gave 18 percent for BitCoin contracts."

5 A. At 1:33:56 p.m., sir?

6 Q. Yeah.

7 A. Yes, sir. What was the question?

8 Q. Do you -- you see where -- where that is.
9 So you've confirmed that.

10 A. Uh-huh.

11 Q. Who is Estuardo?

12 A. He is an L.A. leader, sir.

13 Q. Okay. And by "leader," what do you mean?

14 A. So "leader" is where salespeople that
15 would have a lot of references, so they would sell a
16 lot of student packages, sir. Some leaders had their
17 own office there.

18 Q. I didn't understand that last part.

19 Some leaders have their own what?

20 A. Office.

21 Q. Office. And so Estuardo is in L.A.?

22 A. Yes, sir.

23 Q. Do you know where the L.A. office is?

24 A. I'm trying to recall. I mean, I don't
25 know the exact address, sir.

1 Q. Would you have the address anywhere in
2 your possession?

3 A. I can -- I can look into that, sir.

4 Q. Definitely relevant to -- to what we have
5 asked. So if you have documents that show what the
6 address in L.A. is, please produce them.

7 A. Of course.

8 (Information to be supplied)

9 Q. (BY MR. GULDE) Now, do you have a last
10 name for Estuardo?

11 A. Colama.

12 Q. Spell, please.

13 A. And this may be spelled wrong, but it
14 should be C-O-L-A-M-A.

15 Q. And what do you understand giving
16 18 percent for BitCoin contracts to mean?

17 A. So I'm asking because at the time it
18 seemed like they were doing their own thing, sir.

19 Q. And you want to make sure that Mauricio
20 has blessed whatever Estuardo is doing?

21 A. Yes, sir.

22 Q. So what did you understand them to be
23 doing?

24 A. At the time, giving 18 percent on the
25 contract, sir.

1 Q. Well, who -- giving 18 percent to whom?

2 A. They're students, sir.

3 Q. Okay. So let's pick a hypothetical,
4 okay, and say that there is a \$10,000 contract; and
5 so a student investor, how would that 18 percent be
6 relevant to the student investor?

7 A. So 5,000, they would get 18 percent of
8 5,000 for month three or six.

9 Q. Okay. So the 18 percent that you're
10 describing here simply substitutes for the 15 percent
11 that we have been discussing, which was the
12 monthly --

13 A. Correct.

14 Q. -- proceeds to expect from your initial
15 investment; is that right?

16 A. Yes, sir.

17 Q. Okay. So instead of getting 8 -- or
18 15 percent for each of the three months in a
19 three-month contract, you get 18 percent?

20 A. Yes, sir.

21 Q. Okay. And you were checking to see if
22 Mauricio had authorized this?

23 A. Yes, sir.

24 Q. And you were asking -- you asked him
25 explicitly, "Is this across the company or just

1 them?"

2 A. I was asking -- I was trying to
3 understand what was going on with that situation,
4 because I had never came across it, sir.

5 Q. Yeah. And what did you end up finding
6 out about that?

7 A. I don't exactly remember. I believe they
8 were, but did not seem to have answered my question.

9 Q. Now, does that 18 percent mean that they
10 were better at trading BitCoin than L.A.?

11 A. I don't know where it came from, sir.

12 Q. What's your understanding of how CFX was
13 able to pay any percent of return on amounts invested
14 by student investors?

15 A. Mauricio would conduct trading, sir.

16 Q. And you said trading, not training?

17 A. Trading, yes.

18 Q. Okay. So Mauricio would conduct trading
19 in -- in what assets?

20 A. I don't know, sir.

21 Q. Now, do you know if Mauricio conducted
22 trades in -- in crypto currency?

23 A. I witnessed a Coinbase Pro account once.

24 Q. And do you have any details of that
25 Coinbase Pro account?

1 A. No. He just mentioned that he had made
2 \$50,000 in five minutes once and then he showed the
3 transaction.

4 Q. When was this transaction?

5 A. It was when I was joining, sir.

6 Q. Would that have been around -- or when
7 was that?

8 A. It should have been around -- I started
9 volunteering for classes in February, so around that
10 time, sir.

11 Q. And this is February of 2022?

12 A. Yes, sir.

13 Q. And Mauricio -- Mauricio was telling you
14 that he just made \$50,000 in five minutes?

15 A. Yes, sir.

16 Q. And did he spin his monitor around and
17 show you?

18 A. Oh, no, he showed me on his phone, sir.

19 Q. On his phone?

20 A. Yeah.

21 Q. And is this something Mauricio did more
22 than once?

23 A. No, sir, I only saw it once.

24 Q. Did you ever see any -- anything on his
25 phone or in documentation that reflected other crypto

1 currency trading?

2 A. I saw a -- on his monitor, he had
3 CoinMarketCap pulled up quite often.

4 Q. What is CoinMarketCap?

5 A. It is a platform that shows you all the
6 crypto currencies and their relevant prices at the
7 time.

8 Q. And could you tell if he was logged in as
9 a trader on this website?

10 A. No, sir.

11 Q. Is this a trading website that allows you
12 to conduct transactions?

13 A. It's an information site, sir.

14 Q. Okay. So it's like having CNN up?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Okay. So that's not an indication to you
17 that he was conducting trades?

18 A. I never saw anything other than
19 described, sir.

20 Q. Okay. So you saw on his monitor, he
21 would have the CoinMarketCap screen up, and he showed
22 you his phone the one time.

23 Did you actually confirm that there was a
24 \$50,000 gain on a transaction?

25 A. I glanced at it, sir.

1 Q. Can you say -- can you say right now that
2 you are confident from what you saw that it was a
3 \$50,000 gain in five minutes?

4 A. I can only recall the -- the
5 conversation, sir.

6 Q. Okay.

7 A. And green on the -- green squiggles on
8 the -- on the chart.

9 Q. Okay. Green squiggles, like a graph?

10 A. Yes, sir.

11 Q. How far away from the phone were you when
12 he showed you?

13 A. Like, (indicates) --

14 Q. Okay.

15 A. -- maybe three, four feet, I would guess
16 from my face.

17 Q. Okay. Three or four feet from your face?

18 A. I don't know.

19 Q. Could you tell if he -- could you tell
20 what particular app he had open in that moment?

21 A. I don't know for a fact, sir. It looked
22 like a CoinbasePro account.

23 Q. And Coinbase is an actual crypto
24 transaction app, correct?

25 A. It's an exchange, sir.

1 Q. And by "representative," do you mean like
2 sales staff?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Okay. Sergio is the design guy?

5 A. Yes, sir.

6 Q. So literally like the art -- art design?

7 A. Yes, sir.

8 Q. Okay. So he would design the keys?

9 A. Yes, sir, he designed the keys.

10 Q. And then Marvin, what role did he play?

11 A. He was like business and the -- yeah, he
12 was like on the business side, sir.

13 Q. Okay. Did they have any other NFT
14 offerings that you know of?

15 A. No, sir.

16 Q. Does 79 Protons have any other NFT
17 offerings that you know of?

18 A. Pardon me, sir?

19 Q. Does 79 Protons have any other NFT
20 offerings other than the ones we have discussed?

21 A. No, sir.

22 Q. Okay. So did you have conversations with
23 Marvin and Sergio after we filed our lawsuit?

24 A. Marvin reached out to explain the lawsuit
25 to me, and -- and then they -- they reached out maybe

1 like a couple of weeks ago just to check in on me;
2 and they said that maybe one day I could
3 potentially -- like, they would be interested in me
4 helping them with technology.

5 Q. Was Marvin the first person to tell you
6 about this lawsuit?

7 A. Aside from the news, sir, that was
8 published, yes, he was the one to explain in detail
9 what's going on to me.

10 Q. And this would have been the beginning of
11 October?

12 A. Yes, sir.

13 Q. Okay. What did Marvin tell you about it?

14 A. He basically told me -- and I'm trying to
15 recollect. He told me that the contract -- the --
16 had been voided, and then he -- he just laid out the
17 facts for me, sir, that are explained in the details
18 of the lawsuit; and then from there, yeah, he was
19 asking me, like, if I had spoken to Mauricio, and I
20 told him -- I mean, from there, I was -- I mean, I
21 was, you know, not going to -- not going to do
22 anything with -- with Mauricio basically. And that
23 was the terms that we came that to talk, because I
24 understood kind of what's going on now.

25 Q. Let's go back to -- back in time to when

1 CFX began its relationship with 79 Protons.

2 A. Uh-huh.

3 Q. How did -- how did CFX and 79 Protons
4 come together at first?

5 A. So there was a -- one of their sales
6 representatives one evening before I was about to
7 teach the class, she went into the office and she was
8 looking for Mauricio or, you know, kind of someone to
9 convey the message that she was a part of the team --

10 Q. What was her name?

11 A. Maribel.

12 Q. Maribel what?

13 A. Coleman.

14 Q. C-O-L-E-M-A-N?

15 A. Yes, sir.

16 Q. Okay. Sorry to interrupt. She -- she
17 came and she found Mauricio?

18 A. No. So, again, Mauricio was not around
19 too often, or only in the evenings, and so she wanted
20 to speak to kind of bring out the idea. She spoke to
21 the front desk; and then eventually someone pointed
22 her out to, like, just talk to me, because no one
23 really understands NFTs, and I was the crypto
24 teacher.

25 Yeah, someone pointed it out to me

1 eventually. And so I told Mauricio about it, about
2 what had happened; and he told me to go with Carlos,
3 which is our marketing guy, and just to hear them out
4 and then report back to him as to what it was.

5 Q. Okay. And did you?

6 A. Yes, sir.

7 Q. And did she give you a pitch for
8 79 Protons?

9 A. No, sir, she -- she told me that she
10 could come in and maybe we could meet and she would
11 bring in her team, and then that's when Carlos and I,
12 after confirming with Mauricio, met with the
13 79 Protons staff, sir.

14 Q. Okay. And that -- would that have been
15 Mar -- Marvin and Sergio?

16 A. Yes, sir.

17 Q. And did they tell you -- what did they
18 tell you about NFTs at 79 Protons?

19 A. The same thing I was just -- I had
20 commented before, sir. And they brought in examples
21 of rocks and talked about the mineralogy and the NFT
22 and building a castle and how it is inspired after,
23 like, Egyptian, Greek, you know, ancient world
24 artifacts, if you will.

25 Q. You're saying that the keys themselves or

1 the castle --

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. -- or everything?

4 A. Everything.

5 Q. Okay. The -- the world that they're
6 building has -- has an Egyptian aesthetic; is that
7 the idea?

8 A. Not just Egyptian, sir. Just more like
9 an ancient relic type of aesthetic --

10 Q. Okay.

11 A. -- mixed with obviously modern.

12 Q. Now, the second part of that pitch that
13 we were talking about was exclusivity. So can you
14 tell me more about what -- what that means and how it
15 benefits a potential investor.

16 A. So in the NFT world, it's very common for
17 NFT holders of whatever NFT have exclusive rights to
18 other presales or advance. For example, the New York
19 Yacht Club, they do like a big giant New York event,
20 right? And so that's only -- like, you have to hold
21 them or an Ape in order to go to that event. So they
22 had the same idea in mind.

23 Q. Are these real world events or are they
24 virtual events?

25 A. They could be both.

1 Q. Okay. So that's one thing.

2 Is there any other aspect of exclusivity
3 that -- that is good for potential investors?

4 A. I mean, they could eventually build a
5 game around the NFTs, which they would have gaming
6 rights for it; and by "gaming," I'm talking about
7 video game type of feel and style in the Metaverse.

8 Q. Okay. So other than gaming rights and a
9 potential video game and presale or VIP event-type
10 things, were there other exclusivity aspects of this
11 that were beneficial?

12 A. No, sir.

13 Q. How about the financial aspect, how do
14 you -- can you -- can you explain what you would say
15 to an investor who was wondering how this could
16 benefit them financially?

17 A. Well, they would ultimately buy an NFT,
18 right? That, per 79 Protons, would be the first NFT
19 backed by gold. So the mint price would be backed by
20 gold, they would back it; and then after that, they
21 can do whatever they want with it: They can hold it,
22 they can sell it, they can do whatever.

23 Q. So the backed by gold aspect of this
24 is -- am I understanding it correctly to say that
25 even if the -- the resale price on OpenSea goes into

1 the toilet, you still have rights to this actual,
2 physical gold that will always be worth something?

3 A. Yes. And they would -- they were the
4 managers of that, if you will, or the -- the ones
5 that would take custody of that.

6 Q. So tell me if I understand this
7 correctly: The financial aspect of this that is
8 beneficial to investors is that because of the backed
9 by gold things we have discussed, because of the
10 exclusivity things we've discussed, they will combine
11 to lead to an increase in value that will allow for
12 higher resale, should an investor choose to do that?

13 A. That's depending on the market or what --
14 I mean, that was -- that was the market's decision to
15 do if it was ever released.

16 Q. Is there any other -- is there any other
17 factor that affects the financial aspect of this that
18 I'm ignoring?

19 A. No. An NFT is -- you're the owner of
20 that digital asset, and as the owner, you have
21 exclusive rights to do whatever you want to with it.

22 Q. So if the value goes up, great?

23 A. Pretty much.

24 Q. Okay. And if it doesn't, we got the
25 gold?

1 A. (Nods.)

2 Q. Okay.

3 THE COURT REPORTER: Out loud.

4 THE WITNESS: Yes. I'm sorry.

5 THE COURT REPORTER: It's okay.

6 Q. (BY MR. GULDE) So the -- Sergio and
7 Marvin told you something pretty similar to that --
8 that group of facts to -- to suggest this is a
9 worthwhile endeavor?

10 A. Basically what's on the website, sir.

11 Q. What's on the 79 Protons website?

12 A. Yes, sir. They just dove more into the
13 mineralogy, and they showed videos of how the gold
14 plants do it and like their process and all that
15 stuff, sir.

16 Q. Did they actually have a gold mine?

17 A. They were in the process of building one,
18 sir.

19 Q. But they -- they owned -- owned the
20 property on which they were building a gold mine?

21 A. They were in the process of -- so they
22 have a facility in Utah or some sort of association
23 to a facility in Utah they were looking to bring over
24 here to Texas.

25 Q. Were they going to find gold in Texas?

1 A. I don't know the process, sir.

2 Q. Do you know if the gold was in Utah?

3 A. I don't know the process, sir.

4 Q. Okay.

5 A. I know it was -- based on the videos, it
6 was processed through extraction of the -- of the
7 soil, and they had some sort of, like, chemical
8 compounds and processes; and they showed a video on
9 it, and you had pictures of the gold being liquid and
10 then -- yeah.

11 Q. And did they run the numbers for you
12 comparing the cost of extracting the gold from the --
13 to the price of the gold extracted?

14 A. They mentioned they could produce it,
15 like, wholesale, like way below market value, sir,
16 because they were the controllers of it.

17 Q. Okay. Did they give you numbers on that,
18 or did they just say generally, "We can -- we can
19 produce this gold at well under its -- its value"?

20 A. There was a lot of technical terms that I
21 don't recall, sir.

22 Q. Okay. We're going to come back again to
23 NFTs.

24 A. Okay.

25 Q. Let's run -- let's run to page 179, the

1 third from the bottom -- the third entry from the
2 bottom on September 1st of this year, you told
3 Mauricio, "Also, Bud, if someone wanted to void their
4 contract in exchange for an NFT (this saves us money
5 long-term because we don't have to pay the reward)
6 can I go ahead and do it? I think that's a pretty
7 fair transaction."

8 Do you see that?

9 A. Yes, sir.

10 Q. Do you remember that?

11 A. Yes, sir.

12 Q. Did it end up happening?

13 A. Do you want me to explain the process?

14 Q. Sure.

15 A. So I had a customer come in, and he
16 pretty much brought up this idea, and so I'm
17 regurgitating the idea of the customer since he
18 wanted an NFT and he didn't care about his contract
19 anymore.

20 Q. And so what -- what size contract would
21 this guy have?

22 A. The equivalent to the NFT, sir.

23 Q. So a \$5,000 total value or are we talking
24 about multiples of the gold keys --

25 A. No, just --

1 Q. -- would sell for 5,000?

2 A. -- just the one 5,000.

3 Q. Okay. And your view was it seemed pretty
4 fair because, you know, he's going to get 5,000, he
5 could just trade that for an NFT?

6 A. That was what he wanted, sir --

7 Q. Okay. And it seemed fair to you?

8 A. -- the customer wanted.

9 I believe so, sir.

10 Q. And Mauricio agreed with that?

11 A. Yes, sir.

12 Q. Okay. And so did that transaction
13 happen?

14 A. Yes, sir.

15 Q. Okay.

16 MR. PATEL: Just to help --

17 MR. GULDE: Yeah.

18 MR. PATEL: -- real quick.

19 On this spreadsheet -- you provided this
20 spreadsheet that -- that identifies certain sales of
21 these NFTs, right?

22 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.

23 MR. PATEL: And how is that situation
24 that we just talked about reflected on that
25 spreadsheet?

1 THE WITNESS: So on the spreadsheet, you
2 will see the customer name and then it says "CFX
3 contract" next to "payment."

4 Q. (BY MR. GULDE) Okay. Without pulling it
5 back up, is that something that happened more than
6 once?

7 A. It happened a few times.

8 Q. Okay. More than 10 times?

9 A. No, I don't think. It happened less than
10 10 times --

11 Q. Okay.

12 A. -- I think.

13 Q. Turn to the next page, 180. A little
14 more than halfway down, there is a message on 9/7 at
15 9:43 p.m. where you tell Mauricio, "Hi, Bud. Spoke
16 to Carlitos earlier. He mentioned if we could pay
17 him out his salary from the key sales?"

18 A. Yes, sir.

19 Q. "Let me know if you're good with this,
20 and I'll discount it from the -- from the sales,
21 Bud." And then in parentheses, "He mentioned 15K
22 from six weeks."

23 Was Carlitos making a salary for selling
24 NFT keys?

25 A. No, sir.

1 Q. Okay. What is this talking about?

2 A. Based on this, and my memory, Carlitos
3 had not been paid for his day-to-day activities
4 designing content, and so he asked me that he needed
5 to get paid. And Mauricio is responsible for the
6 payment, so if he wasn't going to show up that day, I
7 was asking if he could just discount it, and
8 obviously he makes up for it since he still has to
9 pay him.

10 Q. Okay. That makes sense. And do you know
11 if that happened?

12 A. I don't believe so, sir. I don't see a
13 reply.

14 Q. Okay. Did you go to L.A. for the opening
15 of the new office?

16 A. Yes, sir.

17 Q. Okay. And we've discussed that you went
18 out to L.A. several times, right?

19 A. No, just once.

20 Q. Oh. Was it Chicago you went to several
21 times?

22 A. To Chicago, yes, sir.

23 Q. Okay. What was the opening of the new
24 office like?

25 A. They were the -- they toured the office.

1 It had a big auditorium -- not -- I wouldn't call it
2 auditorium, more like conference room; and then they
3 had several little offices there. They were still
4 moving in, so they were just showing it; and then
5 they had probably 30 people there, and they had a
6 mariachi.

7 Q. Now, Mauricio asked you to go out
8 specifically?

9 A. Yes, sir.

10 Q. What role did you play in the opening of
11 the new office?

12 A. I was just there to report back; and I
13 did a live crypto class training, sir, about the
14 history of BitCoin and crypto and how it started,
15 where we're at now, and how it's evolving to
16 tomorrow.

17 Q. From the L.A. office?

18 A. Yes, sir.

19 Q. Okay. Who is Flor, F-L-O-R?

20 A. She is the California leader, sir.

21 Q. Okay. Did she stop being responsive to
22 Mauricio about -- about payment?

23 A. I believe so, sir.

24 Q. Okay. And was Mauricio concerned about
25 that?

1 A. Yes, sir --

2 Q. Did he --

3 A. -- very concerned.

4 Q. Did he ask you to do anything about it?

5 A. He asked the accounting team, and then he
6 said that the accounting team, he felt like they
7 weren't pushing, and so he asked me if I can push as
8 well since I saw her at the event, sir.

9 Q. Now, how -- how did Mauricio know that
10 Flor was not sending enough money?

11 A. The accounting team had a spreadsheet,
12 sir.

13 Q. The accounting team at Blalock in
14 Houston?

15 A. Yes, sir.

16 Q. Okay. And how would the accounting team
17 at Blalock in Houston know that Flor was not sending
18 enough money?

19 A. They would be in contact with -- with the
20 leaders, sir.

21 Q. So would the leaders in California be
22 sending in contracts to Blalock?

23 A. Yes, sir.

24 Q. Okay. Is that how it happened for every
25 satellite office where contracts were signed in L.A.

1 or Chicago or New Orleans but they were sent to
2 Houston?

3 A. Yes, sir.

4 Q. And did the money also come all to
5 Houston?

6 A. That was the accounting department's job,
7 sir.

8 Q. Do you know if the money came to Houston,
9 regardless of whose job it was?

10 A. Yes, sir.

11 Q. And how do you know the money came from
12 Houston?

13 A. Because the leaders were present in the
14 accounting offices, sir.

15 Q. I'm not sure I understand how that -- are
16 you a CFX leader?

17 A. No, sir.

18 Q. Okay. So the leaders were present in the
19 accounting office; is that what you said?

20 A. Yeah, they would have meetings with the
21 accounting team, sir.

22 Q. And would you participate in the
23 meetings?

24 A. No, sir.

25 Q. So how do you know the money came in from

1 places like L.A.?

2 A. Because Mauricio is asking for the money,
3 sir, from there.

4 Q. Okay. So Mauricio's asking for money
5 from Flor and has involved you in it, right?

6 A. Yes, at the end, sir.

7 Q. Is there any other reason that you know
8 that money's coming in from other offices?

9 A. Just seeing the leaders and I would see
10 the leaders talk about balance and stuff with the
11 accounting team.

12 Q. Okay. Do you know how money was
13 transported between offices?

14 A. So Flor would send BitCoin from this last
15 one or to Mauricio, sir.

16 Q. To Mauricio directly?

17 A. Yes, sir.

18 Q. So on page 183, is that what you're
19 looking at?

20 A. Yes, sir.

21 Q. When you say, "Did you receive from
22 Flor," and Mauricio says, "Only 100,000," is he
23 reporting a BitCoin transaction?

24 A. I believe so, sir.

25 Q. Okay. Do you know what form money came

1 from other offices to Houston?

2 A. No -- not entirely, sir.

3 Q. How about partially?

4 A. It can be anything, sir. It could be any
5 form of money.

6 Q. Do you know if money came in the form of
7 cash from any other office?

8 A. It could have been, sir.

9 Q. Did you know if it was?

10 A. For a fact, I do not.

11 Q. Okay. Does anything lead you to believe
12 that cash went between offices?

13 A. There is a statement here where he asks
14 to send Mon over.

15 Q. What page is that on?

16 A. Which --

17 MR. PATEL: 184.

18 THE WITNESS: 184, sir.

19 Q. (BY MR. GULDE) Okay. Who is Mon?

20 A. His chauffeur, sir.

21 Q. And so Mon is somebody from Houston?

22 A. Yes, sir.

23 Q. Okay. So if we're talking about that
24 second message on page 184 from you, it says, "I
25 followed up with her today," are we still talking

1 about Flor? Is that right?

2 A. Yes, sir.

3 Q. "And I just spoke to Anna." Who is Anna?

4 A. She is the accounting person in charge of
5 Flor, sir.

6 Q. In California?

7 A. No. She's here in Houston, sir.

8 Q. Okay. So she is a Houston accounting
9 employee who had responsibility for California
10 accounts?

11 A. Yes, sir.

12 Q. Okay. And Anna was calling Flor?

13 A. Yes, sir.

14 Q. And you say, "If she doesn't respond" --
15 meaning if Flor doesn't respond -- "I will call her
16 one last time in the evening and let her know that
17 from now on, we will send Mon every 15 day to collect
18 or sooner since the U.S. dollar" -- is that right?
19 Is that U.S. dollar transaction?

20 MR. PATEL: No.

21 THE WITNESS: U.S. Tether. That is a
22 crypto currency.

23 Q. (BY MR. GULDE) What crypto currency is
24 that?

25 A. U.S. dollar Tether.

1 Q. U.S. dollar Tether?

2 A. Uh-huh.

3 Q. So does that indicate to you that if --
4 that Flor had been paying with that particular crypto
5 currency?

6 A. Yes, sir.

7 Q. Had been paying Mauricio?

8 A. That's what Mauricio told me, sir.

9 Q. Okay. And did Mauricio tell you that --
10 that the plan would be if Flor didn't become more
11 responsive to send his chauffeur to California from
12 Houston?

13 A. Yes, sir. He was pressuring me a lot,
14 sir.

15 Q. Okay. Is there a threat involved in that
16 at all?

17 A. No, sir.

18 Q. Okay. The idea is it is harder to say --
19 to say no to somebody in person?

20 A. Yes, sir. He was -- he kept telling me
21 pretty much and texting me about it, and it was -- it
22 was very strange. It was the first occurrences that
23 he had done that.

24 Q. This is the first time you ever heard
25 Mauricio saying, "Let's send somebody in person to

1 get the money"?

2 A. Yes, sir.

3 Q. Let's go to that previous page, 183.

4 At 3:50 on 9/15, there is a statement
5 from you that says, "Okay, Bro, can you send me your
6 wallet? I'm going to send you 40K from NFT -- NFT
7 sales, too. I had to use 40K from the 80 for daily
8 payments, and I'll follow up on the rest from Flor."

9 Do you see that?

10 A. Yes, sir.

11 Q. Is that a situation where you're telling
12 Mauricio that you have used \$40,000 from \$80,000 that
13 had come in on NFT sales?

14 A. Uh-huh.

15 Q. And you would use that \$40,000 to make
16 routine contract payments for student investors?

17 A. So at this point, sir, there was no
18 BitCoin that was ever received, and so there was a
19 lot of people and there was people at my doorstep,
20 and that BitCoin money was something that he told me
21 that, if needed, that he could -- that I could pay it
22 out and then he would just replenish it.

23 Q. So Mauricio had -- had pre-authorized
24 this -- this sort of transaction with you; is that
25 right?

1 A. Yes, in person, sir.

2 Q. Is this the first time that it actually
3 happened?

4 A. Yes, sir.

5 Q. So did he give any reason for why the
6 BitCoin was -- was not forthcoming?

7 A. No, sir. The only thing I can see is
8 that he's starting to pressure.

9 Q. He's starting to what?

10 A. Pressure, on like the text messages in
11 regards to -- so he wouldn't send me BitCoin, but he
12 was starting to, like, pressure me to ask for that.

13 Q. I'm not sure I understand. Can you --
14 can you tell me what you mean by "pressure."

15 A. Yes, sir. So there was no BitCoin in
16 that wallet at the same -- at the time.

17 Q. No BitCoin in the wallet that you and I
18 have been discussing?

19 A. Yes, sir.

20 Q. Okay.

21 A. So that means that I can't conduct my
22 duties that were assigned to me at that time, and so
23 the only thing I have which was separate was the NFT
24 crypto currency, which is separate; and so in order
25 to be able to conduct my daily tasks that I was

1 instructed to do, I had pre-asked them if I was okay
2 where I'm asking him again, because at the end of the
3 day, the NFT money, he's still responsible for that,
4 too. So I was looking for authorization.

5 Q. I understand that. Explain what -- so is
6 the pressure part of that just the whole thing, that
7 the -- the wallet's empty, that there's pressure on
8 you to get the payments made, and he is -- and you've
9 approached him with a way to relieve that pressure?

10 Whose idea was it to use the NFT money
11 to -- to pay the -- the contract investors?

12 A. So that was brought up to him because
13 there was no money in the wallet, so --

14 Q. It was brought up to him by you?

15 A. Yes, I asked him if that could be done
16 and if it would be okay to do.

17 Q. And he gave you the thumbs up on that?

18 A. Yes, sir.

19 Q. Yeah. And this is just you asking to do
20 it again?

21 A. Yes, sir.

22 Q. I was just reacting to your use of the
23 word "pressure," and I want to make sure I understand
24 where it's coming from.

25 MR. PATEL: Yeah, I -- I think I do know.

1 MR. GULDE: Clarify, feel free.

2 MR. PATEL: When you -- when you
3 referenced "pressure," were you referring to his
4 efforts to collect money from others -- other
5 offices? Was that the pressure you're referring to?

6 MR. FLACK: Object to the form.

7 THE WITNESS: Yes, that, and having a
8 lack of -- of BitCoin in the wallet as well.

9 (Discussion off record re objection)

10 MR. GULDE: I mean he said, "Objection:
11 Form." I don't have any objections at all.

12 THE COURT REPORTER: I got it.

13 MR. FLACK: He objected to the form of my
14 form objection.

15 Q. (BY MR. GULDE) Okay. Did this happen
16 again where -- where you had to use money from NFT
17 sales to pay contract payments?

18 A. If it's not on the messaging, sir, then I
19 don't recollect doing so, sir.

20 Q. And let's just discuss the form of the
21 payment --

22 A. Uh-huh.

23 Q. -- briefly. Do you know what form that
24 \$80,000 was in?

25 A. It was in crypto, sir.

1 Q. And how do you know that?

2 A. Because that was the same crypto that
3 was -- in this case he was authorizing me to send pay
4 in BitCoin, sir.

5 Q. Student -- does that mean that all of the
6 student investors who came in for that \$80,000 worth
7 of NFTs had paid in crypto?

8 A. Yes, sir.

9 Q. Okay. Did Flor eventually pay?

10 A. I don't quite know, sir.

11 Q. Did Mauricio have to send Mon out to
12 California every 15 days?

13 A. I don't quite know, sir.

14 Q. Who would know?

15 A. Probably the accounting team, sir.

16 Q. Now, you said that you had people at your
17 doorstep. Is that literally true?

18 A. Yes, sir, there were people in my office.

19 Q. Did people come to your home?

20 A. No, sir.

21 Q. But student investors came to your
22 office?

23 A. Uh-huh.

24 Q. And what did they want?

25 A. Their BitCoin payments, sir.

1 Q. Did they also come up and say, "Teach me
2 my classes"?

3 A. I don't -- what do you mean, sir?

4 Q. You had people on your doorstep --
5 doorstep demanding payment, right?

6 A. Yes, sir.

7 Q. Of the amount due proceeds on their
8 contract, right?

9 A. Yes, sir.

10 Q. Similarly, did you have people coming up
11 to your doorstep demanding classes?

12 A. I had people come to me with all kinds of
13 crypto questions, sir.

14 Q. They -- were they coming to your
15 doorstep, like in person saying, "Hold more classes"?

16 A. No, they were asking me like about
17 wallets, and they were asking me how to -- most of
18 the time it was ask -- they were asking me how to
19 open up wallets.

20 Q. Did those questions increase after our
21 lawsuit?

22 A. I wasn't -- I -- I wasn't involved in
23 this after that, sir.

24 Q. And you had investors approaching you
25 about how they -- how they might get repaid?

1 A. Oh, yes, sir, there's -- there's -- I
2 would get a lot of calls and some -- sometimes they
3 were threatening calls, sir.

4 Q. Yeah, can you describe some of the
5 threats?

6 A. There's one person on the chat that was
7 provided, sir, that she kept -- she keeps asking
8 like, "Where's Julio? Don't-make-me-come-get-you"
9 type of threats, sir.

10 Q. Has anyone threatened you in person?

11 A. No, sir.

12 Q. Has there been any violence in connection
13 with this?

14 A. No, sir.

15 Q. Are you familiar with a situation in
16 which Carmen de la Cruz was threatened with a gun?

17 A. No, sir.

18 Q. Are you familiar with anyone receiving a
19 threat -- in-person threat with a weapon?

20 A. No, sir.

21 Q. Let's go back to page 184.

22 A. Sure.

23 Q. About two-thirds of the way down, there's
24 a message from you that says you spoke to Estuardo a
25 moment ago. And this is one of the leaders in

1 Q. Okay. So this is -- what is his real
2 name?

3 A. I know him as "Mon."

4 Q. I'm sorry?

5 A. I know him as "Mon."

6 Q. Okay. And "Chino" was his nickname?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Why was his nickname Chino or Chinese?

9 A. He was Asian.

10 Q. He was Asian?

11 A. (Nods).

12 Q. There are a couple of documents -- CFX
13 documents that show Chino brought to Houston a
14 million dollars in September. Do you know how Chino
15 or Mon carried that money from L.A. or from
16 California to Houston?

17 A. No. That's -- I don't know any of that,
18 ma'am.

19 Q. You never heard any -- anybody at CFX
20 say, "Oh, he drove from California, he took three
21 days" or something like that?

22 A. No, ma'am.

23 Q. Were -- were -- do you know -- do you
24 have any other information about this -- this person?

25 A. None other than the text messages that

1 Mauricio told me about.

2 Q. Do you have a phone number for Mon?

3 A. Yes. It should be on the sheet, I think.

4 Q. Okay. And were those WhatsApp text
5 messages? Or in the sheet that you went through
6 there?

7 A. It's actually on the -- it's actually on
8 this big sheet, the WhatsApp -- the English chat.

9 Q. Okay. That's fine. We can look at that.

10 A. Yeah.

11 Q. Did you have a -- did CFX give you a
12 company -- a phone?

13 A. The Ring Central, ma'am, that you have
14 access to.

15 Q. Okay. And anything else other than Ring
16 Central, any other -- any other phone?

17 A. No, ma'am.

18 Q. What about other employees, were they
19 given like a cellphone, a CFX cellphone?

20 A. There was two other cellphones that I
21 saw, ma'am.

22 Q. Okay. And who handled the CFX cellphone?

23 A. People in customer service.

24 Q. Customer service?

25 A. Yeah, people in customer service.

1 Q. Would they bring those cellphones at home
2 with them at the end of the day or were those
3 cellphones left at Blalock?

4 A. What I saw was they were always left
5 there.

6 Q. And were you given a computer by CFX, a
7 laptop or any other type of computer?

8 A. I purchased that from the money that
9 Mauricio would pay me for the classes.

10 Q. I don't understand. Did you purchase
11 your computer with CFX money?

12 MR. PATEL: Well, her question is: Did
13 you buy -- was that your personal laptop or was that
14 CFX's laptop?

15 THE WITNESS: It was my personal laptop
16 that I spent from the money that I was paid to
17 conduct the classes.

18 Q. (BY MS. THEMELI) So you consider that
19 your personal laptop?

20 A. Yes, ma'am.

21 Q. Okay. Do you know if CFX gave any
22 company laptops or other type of devices, iPads or
23 anything like that to any other employee?

24 A. Yes, everyone had their own computer.

25 Q. And when you say "everyone had their own

1 computer," were those computers that -- were those
2 laptops or desktops?

3 A. Both.

4 Q. Well, let's start with the desktops.

5 A. Uh-huh.

6 Q. Those were CFX computers?

7 A. Yes, ma'am.

8 Q. Okay. And they stayed presume -- I
9 assume at Blalock, right --

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. -- during the -- okay.

12 And do you know if they were password
13 protected?

14 A. I didn't handle those, ma'am.

15 Q. Who at CFX would handle this type of
16 information, like passwords for computers, computer
17 system or anything like that?

18 A. They're individually managed by the
19 device owner.

20 Q. Okay. So each -- each employee would
21 manage their own computer?

22 A. Yes, ma'am.

23 Q. Okay. And was there some sort of
24 service -- IT service that the company had
25 entertained or hired in case there were any IT

1 issues?

2 A. No, ma'am.

3 Q. What did y'all do when there were IT
4 issues? I have IT issues all the time. I cannot
5 live without IT, so that's why I wanted to --

6 A. People would ask me for assistance as the
7 crypto teacher.

8 Q. So were you always there to help?

9 A. No.

10 Q. Okay. And who would help them with
11 resetting passwords or anything like that?

12 A. Oh, that was their -- their own doing.

13 Q. Did CFX give anyone a laptop and I mean,
14 as a company laptop?

15 A. Yeah, people had company laptops.

16 Q. And who had company laptops?

17 A. Customer service had their company
18 laptop.

19 Q. Okay. Anyone else other than the
20 customer service employees?

21 A. No, ma'am, just that.

22 Q. What about the accounting personnel?

23 A. I recall them having the desktop, ma'am.

24 Q. Tell me about the security system at the
25 CFX offices of Blalock.

1 A. What do you mean?

2 Q. Do you know -- I mean, there are cameras
3 everywhere, right?

4 A. Uh-huh.

5 Q. Okay. And there were -- they are
6 monitors as well connected to those cameras?

7 A. Those were -- there was cameras. They
8 were connected to the big, giant t.v. screen that was
9 in the main office.

10 Q. Okay. Do you know if CFX -- if there was
11 a company -- some sort of security company that CFX
12 had retained to handle the security systems?

13 A. No, ma'am. But I did see a fire alarm
14 company.

15 Q. Okay. And what is the fire alarm
16 company?

17 A. You can easily tell by the tags on the
18 extinguishers.

19 Q. But you're not aware of a security -- of
20 a company handling their security systems?

21 A. I don't know that information, ma'am.

22 Q. Who would know that information?

23 A. Gio.

24 Q. And by "Gio," do you mean Giorgio
25 Benvenuto?

1 A. Yes, ma'am.

2 Q. Was Gio in charge of the -- of the office
3 there, of the rent, of the like --

4 A. Yeah, he was -- he was the bill manager
5 and he would pay for the desks and the sprinkler
6 system and if anything broke, which the AC would
7 break like religiously.

8 Q. Okay. The armed security guards at CFX
9 at Blalock, tell me about them. How many were there?

10 A. Excuse me. There was two, which are
11 listed in the -- in the team -- in the org chart from
12 July.

13 Q. Uh-huh.

14 A. And then eventually Joseph, like, became
15 a security guard as well.

16 Q. Okay. So Adam and Joseph?

17 A. Yes, ma'am.

18 Q. What's Adam's last name?

19 A. Whatever's on the sheet, ma'am.

20 Q. There's nothing on the sheet.

21 A. Oh.

22 Q. It says "N/A."

23 A. Then I don't know.

24 Q. And Adam and Joseph, were they like
25 off-duty police officers or Harris County Sheriff's

1 Officers or anything like that?

2 A. I don't know that information, ma'am.

3 Q. Did you know if they were hired through a
4 company, like Securitas or any other type -- or a
5 similar type company?

6 A. I don't know.

7 Q. Other than Adam and Joseph, did Mauricio
8 have a personal security guard?

9 A. I don't know.

10 Q. Someone who would drive him around or
11 drive him home or anything like that?

12 A. I don't know. I know that the securities
13 at the office would escort him to his car.

14 Q. Would anyone go with him in the car?

15 A. No.

16 MR. PATEL: Hold on one second.

17 (Discussion off record sotto voce)

18 THE WITNESS: Oh, okay.

19 MR. PATEL: Just to be clear, they're
20 asking about not just people in security. Her
21 question about "Did somebody drive Mauricio around"
22 is not tied to the security title, if I understand
23 correctly.

24 MS. THEMELI: Correct.

25 THE WITNESS: Oh, understood. That was

1 my --

2 Q. (BY MS. THEMELI) It's okay. Did
3 Mauricio, say, have a chauffeur or someone who would
4 drive him around?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. And who would that be?

7 A. It was Mon, and there was also another
8 guy. I don't know his name, though.

9 Q. And did Mon carry a gun?

10 A. I never saw anything.

11 Q. What about the other guy, did he carry a
12 gun? Or I assume it was a guy.

13 A. I don't know.

14 Q. Did Mauricio have a personal computer?

15 A. Yes, ma'am.

16 Q. Was it a desktop?

17 A. It was a Mac Mini that sat on his desk.

18 Q. And we have seen some pictures. And
19 other than that computer you just described, are you
20 aware of any other type of computer, laptop or iPads
21 that Mauricio had?

22 A. His cousin gifted him a custom built
23 computer. It was white. It was underneath his desk
24 as well.

25 Q. Was it an Apple computer?

1 A. A custom built PC.

2 Q. Custom built. And I am a complete
3 ignorant. That's why I'm asking you.

4 A. No, no worries. It was a custom built
5 PC.

6 Q. PC?

7 A. Uh-huh.

8 Q. Did he have any other device that you
9 have seen him other than his phone?

10 A. No, ma'am.

11 Q. An iPad, for example?

12 A. No, ma'am.

13 Q. What type of car did Mauricio drive at
14 the office?

15 A. It was a BMW.

16 Q. We know that CFX had a Facebook account
17 and other social media. Do you know who administered
18 those and who ran those?

19 A. No, ma'am.

20 Q. Was Carlo in marketing? Right?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Would he handle -- is it possible that he
23 handled those?

24 A. No, ma'am, I don't think so.

25 Q. And who would know?

1 A. My -- may I provide my assumption?

2 Q. Yes, of course.

3 A. Okay. If any social media things were
4 created, they were created a long time ago before I
5 was there.

6 Q. Uh-huh.

7 A. And I think there's social medias, like
8 this picture (indicates), from accounts that were
9 created from random students.

10 Q. So are you saying that there is no
11 official CFX Academy or Life -- or CFX Lifestyle or
12 CryptoFX Facebook account?

13 A. From March when I was there, no.

14 Q. Does CFX have a website?

15 A. There was one. It says it on the bottom
16 of the contract.

17 Q. And who managed that?

18 A. I don't know.

19 Q. Did CFX ever use web services to generate
20 business leads or new investors?

21 A. No.

22 Q. It was all word of mouth?

23 A. I think that's --

24 Q. As far as you know?

25 A. As far as I know.

1 Q. Did you ever confirm commissions for
2 meters?

3 A. No, ma'am.

4 Q. I have an e-mail here -- I think I need
5 to put on my glasses -- from John Segura. He's in
6 Miami, correct?

7 A. Correct.

8 Q. And he's sending an e-mail to you --

9 A. Uh-huh.

10 Q. -- talking about his commission and his
11 bonus?

12 A. Yes, ma'am.

13 Q. And why would John Segura send you -- by
14 the way, John Segura, is he the founder of CFX Miami?

15 Is that -- does that sound correct?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. How long has CFX Miami been around?

18 A. It never kicked off, ma'am, that I'm
19 aware of.

20 Q. They never had an office?

21 A. They never went live.

22 Q. Okay. And why would John Segura send you
23 an e-mail about his commission?

24 A. So he would reach out to Anna and as an
25 additional source, he always wanted me to -- he

1 always provided the e-mail to me as well. He was
2 also an attender of my crypto class, so --

3 Q. So what, he was going to send it to you
4 just so that you knew about it or was he asking for
5 some sort of confirmation from you?

6 A. He was asking me to share that with Anna
7 or see if there is a status from Anna since I was
8 also in the building.

9 Q. I am going to hand you what's being
10 marked as Exhibit 42 to this deposition.

11 (Exhibit 42 marked)

12 Q. (BY MS. THEMELI) This is a contract
13 under the name of Jonadas Salido?

14 A. Yes, ma'am.

15 Q. This is your -- your brother-in-law,
16 right?

17 A. Yes, ma'am.

18 Q. And if you see at the bottom there, the
19 contract was signed on June 17th, 2022.

20 Do you see that?

21 A. Yes, ma'am.

22 Q. And is that John's signature above
23 student's signature?

24 A. Yes, ma'am.

25 Q. And next to that it says "CryptoFX, LLC

1 representative," and that's your name, right?

2 A. Yes, ma'am.

3 Q. And then on the right we have again your
4 name as the CryptoFX, LLC student?

5 A. Yes, ma'am.

6 Q. What does that mean, that you received
7 his \$10,000 investment?

8 A. That I received the 10,000, and then that
9 would go to the accounting team.

10 Q. And was that \$10,000 in cash?

11 A. That was 10,000, ma'am, yes.

12 Q. Okay. And if you go at the top of the
13 document where it says "Direct sponsor, seven
14 percent; indirect sponsor, three percent." do you see
15 that?

16 A. Yes, ma'am.

17 Q. And your name is listed on those --
18 you're listed both as a direct sponsor and also as an
19 indirect sponsor, correct?

20 A. Yes, ma'am.

21 Q. Okay. And how much money did you receive
22 as a direct sponsor from this -- from this contract?

23 A. None, ma'am. That went back to John.

24 Q. What do you mean it went back to John?

25 A. So, yeah, so that -- that was a referral

1 STATE OF TEXAS

2 COUNTY OF HARRIS

3
4 REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE
5 ORAL VIDEOTAPED DEPOSITION OF
6 MR. JULIO E. TAFFINDER

7 December 14, 2022

8
9 I, Michelle Hartman, the undersigned
10 Certified Shorthand Reporter in and for the State of
11 Texas and Registered Professional Reporter, certify
12 that the facts stated in the foregoing pages are true
13 and correct.

14 I further certify that I am neither
15 attorney or counsel for, related to, nor employed by
16 any parties to the action in which this testimony is
17 taken and, further, that I am not a relative or
18 employee of any counsel employed by the parties
19 hereto or financially interested in the action.
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25

1 SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO under my hand and
2 seal of office on this 19th day of December, 2022.

3
4 *Michelle Hartman*



5
6 Michelle Hartman, CSR, RPR

Texas CSR 7093

7 Expiration: 12/31/23
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[4/19/22, 9:40:24 PM] Mauricio: Messages and calls are end-to-end encrypted. No one outside of this chat, not even WhatsApp, can read or listen to them.

[4/19/22, 9:40:24 PM] Mauricio: Contact card omitted

[4/21/22, 4:22:35 PM] Flow 🏠🌟: image omitted

[5/23/22, 8:07:57 PM] Flow 🏠🌟: **REDACTED**

[5/25/22, 3:33:40 PM] Flow 🏠🌟: Hi brother, I paid out all btc payments from last week of 21k. This week there are an additional 70k that need to be paid out

[5/26/22, 1:38:16 PM] Flow 🏠🌟: Hi brother, happy Wednesday. Just a friendly reminder that we are out of btc to continue pay outs. Let me know if I can help with anything

[5/26/22, 8:28:39 PM] Mauricio: audio omitted

[5/26/22, 11:14:35 PM] Flow 🏠🌟: audio omitted

[5/26/22, 11:15:22 PM] Mauricio: audio omitted

[5/26/22, 11:16:20 PM] Flow 🏠🌟: audio omitted

[5/26/22, 11:23:07 PM] Mauricio: Awesome bro

[5/26/22, 11:27:53 PM] Flow 🏠🌟: Awesome bro, I'll text you when I get back Sunday my guy 🗨️🗨️

[5/26/22, 11:28:10 PM] Mauricio: Have a great flight

[5/26/22, 11:29:54 PM] Flow 🏠🌟: Yes sir, thanks man! I'll send you pics fo shizzle

[5/26/22, 11:38:22 PM] Flow 🏠🌟: I'll still be in the office tomorrow just going to leave at 4 to catch the flight. Let me know if you need anything as well

[5/27/22, 12:38:07 PM] Flow 🏠🌟: audio omitted

[5/27/22, 2:24:36 PM] Flow 🏠🌟: CFX Academy - Poster Boards CFXACA-0001.pdf • 1 page document omitted

[5/27/22, 2:25:25 PM] Flow 🏠🌟: Hi brother this is the quote for the led banner. Let me know when I'm good to place the order 👍

[5/27/22, 2:26:24 PM] Flow 🏠🌟: I was able to get a \$300 discount. The leds will also be for indoor/outdoor and we can transport them to events if needed

[5/27/22, 2:47:49 PM] Mauricio: audio omitted

[5/27/22, 2:49:13 PM] Flow 🏠🌟: No problem my guy 🗨️🗨️ can I get the money from Cindy to order them?

[6/2/22, 10:52:42 AM] Flow 🏠🌟: Hi brother, Good Morning. For the BTC payments, can you send me 2 BTC to continue to pay out folks. We have about 30+ people awaiting payments

